

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 36

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

75¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a plan to create a public transportation system on Saipan?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Burger King apologizes after its Twitter account is hacked.

► PAGE 13

NATION



Children's suspensions renew debate over zero tolerance.

► PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



Seth MacFarlane might be the hardest working man in show business.

► PAGE 19

\$150K 'wrongfully deposited' to ICS account. **PAGE 3**
Russian, 60, drowns at Obyan Beach. **PAGE 3**

2014 budget at \$114M, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is poised to submit to the Legislature a fiscal year 2014 budget of \$114 million—the same level as the current fiscal year, according to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee vice chair Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) separately said yesterday that having a “baseline figure” at this time is good, and knowing that it’s not going to be lower than the current budget.

Inos said government work hours will remain at 80 hours biweekly, but that agencies will still be re-

See **BUDGET** on **Page 4**

Lewis: Go and help yourselves

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Lewis

A former lawyer of U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services described a proposal to grant a CNMI-only status to long-term nonresident workers in the Northern Marianas as “not fair” and called for the inclusion of these workers in the comprehensive immigration reform plan of the Obama administration.

New York-based attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, at the same time, advised legal foreign workers in the CNMI to “stand their ground” because hope is coming, urging them to be “very persis-

See **LEWIS** on **Page 4**



NEW POLICE CHIEF

Flanked by his wife Ni Deleon Guerrero and mother Maria Deleon Guerrero, James C. Deleon Guerrero takes oath as new commissioner for the Department of Public Safety yesterday afternoon. Chief Justice Alexandro Castro administers the oath during the ceremony in front of the DPS building in Susupe.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

See story on **Page 4**

PSS: More poor families than 10 years ago

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Compared to other insular areas, the number of poor families in the Commonwealth increased in the last 10 years and many of the children of these families are flocking to public schools, straining an already overstretched Public School System.

In a presentation to the Board of

Education, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh revealed that, based on the 2010 Census, the CNMI has the lowest amount of family median income compared to Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the CNMI, the family median income per year is only \$22,455 compared to Guam’s \$50,607. American Samoa slightly surpassed the CNMI with \$24,706, while the

U.S. Virgin Islands is at \$45,058. In the U.S. mainland, the median family income is \$64,400.

Thornburgh said the CNMI’s family median income in 2010 shows a miniscule growth of just \$1,180 across the 20-year period from 1990 when CNMI family median income was at \$21,275 per year.

This is in stark contrast to Guam, which showed a \$19,429 increase in its median family income across 20 years. The same holds true with

See **PSS** on **Page 4**

Impeachment trial begins March 7

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s impeachment trial begins on March 7, a week after his seven-day deadline from yesterday to file a

written answer to the Senate on the 18 articles of impeachment that the House of Representative leveled against him.

The governor, 68, was served yesterday afternoon with a writ of summons to appear before the Senate and respond to the charges and requests for subpoenas and other documents.

The House impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. He is the first governor in

See **IMPEACHMENT** on **Page 4**

» **Senate president: Process will be expedient, fair**

MORE INSIDE

■ What happens if NMC loses its accreditation? **PAGE 2**

■ CNMI employers no longer required to provide health insurance for foreign workers. **PAGE 5**

■ Vendors at the Pika Festival see increased sales this year. **PAGE 7**



Local

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ACCREDITATION LOSS:

Loss of federal aid and non-transferable grades

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College students face two potential grave impacts if the CNMI's lone community college loses its accreditation with the Accrediting Commission on Community and Junior Colleges, according to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., yesterday.

First, students cannot obtain any federal financial aid because these grants for college programs are awarded and provided only to accredited institutions.

Second, a loss of accreditation will affect the ability of NMC students to transfer their credits since most universities and colleges honor and accept credits only from accredited institutions.

Hart disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that about 80 percent of those currently attending NMC avail of federal financial assistance. These students may potentially stop their studies if federal grants stop coming.

NMC receives a significant amount of federal grants each year. In fiscal year 2012 alone, the college got \$9 million in

federal monies, not including funds from special federal awards such as the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, which pumped in \$425,000 last fiscal year and about \$3 million in fiscal year 2011.

Pell grants from the U.S. Department of Education provides the college a yearly grant of \$4 million that finances the studies of about 80 percent of the college's enrollees.

The U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant Program also provides NMC \$1.5 million a year. This program helps native Pa-

cific islanders from low-income families to enroll, remain, and succeed in college.

Other programs using federal monies at NMC include the Adult Basic Education, CREES, and the University Centers for Education Excellence, among others.

ACCJC slapped the college anew with a severe sanction of show-cause status after it failed to address all deficiencies identified by a visiting accreditation team. It is required to submit a show-cause report and a closure plan on Oct. 15. The commission will then render a decision

on NMC's accreditation at an assembly in January 2014.

Two reports

Hart said she has yet to know the final content of the closure plan, but stressed that the report will be submitted on time, along with other report.

She said it is their plan to aggressively address all team recommendations that deal with standards and is asking everyone to come together and work as a team for NMC.

"Everyone has to put aside political differences—the college, the community, the CNMI. We need to come together and focus on a positive direction to get that accomplished. As we all know, higher education is the vehicle that can help drive the economy of the Commonwealth," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Vacant posts

One of the notable recommendations of the ACCJC deals with the college administrative capacity. Vacant positions such as chief financial officer and some senior level posts were cited as critical to the college's operation.

Hart disclosed that NMC has failed to fill these hard-to-fill positions due to unattractive salary offers. She said NMC will reopen these vacancies with a higher salary package to attract more applicants. She said the target period for this effort is within this semester.

Meantime, Hart refused to comment on ACCJC's recommendation to remove honorary regents from the board.

"That's a board issue and the board has to deal with that appropriately. [But] the report is very strong in what needs to be done to reaffirm accreditation," she said, adding that the "CEO and the board" must adhere to every single recommendation in the report.

'Willing to serve'

No basis found to sanction 2 lawyers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found no basis to sanction two lawyers representing former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and his wife Sophia Tenorio in a lawsuit against the owner of the defunct Hotel Riviera Saipan.

After listening to the counsels' arguments, Camacho said he is satisfied with the explanations of attorneys Daniel C. Stafford and Tiberius Mocanu.

Camacho said Stafford and Mocanu acted in good faith and were not purposely attempting to waste the court's resources or of the defendant Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp.

Stafford and Mocanu explained that the Tenorio couple's motion for preliminary injunctive relief was initially withdrawn for fear of Rule II

Hart's two-year contract is expiring in July this year. The accrediting commission is concerned that the college has yet to decide whether to retain Hart or recruit a new college president.

Hart said she is willing to continue serving the institution.

"I am willing to help this college in everything and anything that it can to get our accreditation. But it's important that everyone—myself and the board—must work as a team," she said.

In the event NMC's accreditation is revoked, the institution has some options it may take, including appealing the decision, applying for accreditation with other commissions other than ACCJC, or total closure.

Hart pointed out, however, that appealing a decision is not always successful. Again, she said the college has no clear closure plans yet.

WICHE membership

Hart also clarified yesterday that the college's accreditation risk has no effect on its membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WICHE, which recently accepted the Commonwealth as its newest member.

"NMI will still be a member of WICHE even if [loss of accreditation] happens...because WICHE is put together by governors of the state," she explained, adding that as long as the CNMI pays its membership dues, WICHE will remain committed to the CNMI.

Membership in the organization allows CNMI students to be eligible for reduced tuition rates in 15 member states. For undergraduate programs, the reduced tuition for NMI students is at 150 percent of the resident tuition of that institution.

To avail of these benefits, member institutions require proof of residency. CNMI citizens can physically attend courses of their choice or they could take programs online.

sanctions and refiled after it was reviewed. They believed at the time that the motion was founded in law and was filed in good faith.

On Friday, Camacho directed Stafford and Mocanu to explain why they should not be sanctioned over the twice filing of a motion for preliminary injunctive relief within a 24-hour period.

At the hearing, Stafford and Mocanu apologized to the court and to F. Matthew Smith, who along with Jennifer Dockter, is representing Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp.

Mocanu said he will contact the Tenorios if they could withdraw the motion for preliminary injunctive relief.

Later in the afternoon yesterday, Mocanu notified the court that the Tenorios are withdrawing their motion for preliminary

See **SANCTION** on Next Page

5th Annual A Walk to Remember in honor of "JP" John Pangelinan

On Saturday, February 23, 2013, Tan Holdings is once again sponsoring a three-mile walk and fund-raiser in honor of and in dedication to the memory of our former Tan Holdings executive, John "JP" Pangelinan. The walk also aims to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Registration is \$5 per person, unless you are an employee wherein the company will pay for your fee. The walk will start by the Beach Road Pavillion in front of JP Center. Refreshments, raffle prizes, and entertainment will be available at the Susupe Beach Park finish line.

Registration forms are available at the Saipan Tribune or may be requested from Becky Tenorio at becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com or by calling 235-2440.



\$150K 'wrongfully deposited' to ICS account—CHCC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board found out Friday that the consultant it earlier hired for billing and collection, Idaho-based International Consulting Services, wrongfully received \$150,000 from the corporation.

Corporation COO and chief

financial officer Esther Muña disclosed that the amount was deposited into ICS' account for May 1 to 8, 2012. Muña was quick to say, however, that management will pursue all means to retrieve the money.

"ICS collections [that were] wrongfully deposited need to be returned back to CHCC. In one week time alone, from May 1

to 8, \$150,000 of the \$180,000 collections was deposited when productivity of those claims was clearly from CHCC staff and not ICS staff," stated Muña in her report to the board.

She admitted that the amount may change once a full accounting of records is completed.

"Once we get the total, we will put everything together

and we will bring it to the legal counsel because we need to go after them," Muña told the board, adding that management will go back to all ICS records since the beginning of its contract. Muña estimated to complete the review in a week's time.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta executed a six-year sole-source contract with ICS in February 2012. Because the contract was made outside of the then emergency declaration for CHC and due to noncompliance with the requirements of the law, then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham declared the contract void and unconstitutional.

Babauta, when asked by the board on the latest development with the ICS issue, reported that the matter remains pending at the OAG. Buckingham has already quit his job and relocated off-island.

Babauta said that he, along

with other CHCC officials, including then COO Jim Phillips, were interviewed by OPA and OAG about the ICS matter. Phillips was later terminated for allegedly giving the board inaccurate information on ICS issues.

Babauta was instructed Friday to follow up the matter with the OAG and OPA.

According to board chair Joaquin Torres, the ICS matter was referred to the OAG after the board's special committee did an internal probe and recommended the matter for referral to the OAG for prosecution.

It was earlier disclosed that ICS received an advance payment of \$37,000 for a contract that it didn't actually perform. The board earlier ordered corporation management to re-

coup all improper payments made to ICS.

Meantime, board members were informed Friday that the corporation has retained the services of Guam Marianas Collection Agency for the collection of stale accounts. It only gets paid when it actually collects monies for the hospital.

GMCA's contract, according to Muña, provides a 25-percent fee for what it collects and 10 percent fee for the billing works.

SANCTION

From Page 2

injunctive relief.

"The plaintiffs however reserve the right to file a similar motion if the same, or similar, situation arises and the property is in jeopardy of being left unsecured or falling further into disrepair as a result of an act or omission of the defendant," Mocanu said in the notice of withdrawal.

At the hearing, Smith said the action in filing the motion for preliminary injunctive relief is ridiculous.

"It really harmed our client," Smith said.

Smith said there is a pending motion for summary judgment in this case.

In the Tenorios' motion for preliminary injunctive relief, Stafford asked the court issue an order prohibiting Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp. from leaving the hotel premises unsecured, and directing the corporation not to take any action that would damage the property.

Stafford later filed a notice to withdraw the motion.

Mocanu then filed a notice to substitute Stafford as counsel for the Tenorios, saying Stafford will be relocating off-island this month.

Later that same day, Mocanu filed the same plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunctive relief that Stafford asked a day before to be withdrawn.

In his show cause order issued on Friday, Camacho said he is very concerned whether these two lawyers for the plaintiffs know what they are doing or are simply playing games.

In response to the order to show cause, Stafford said he filed the motion for preliminary injunctive relief on plaintiffs' behalf based on credible evidence that the security company guarding the hotel planned on leaving the job on Feb. 22, 2013.

Stafford said the security company's pending departure would have given rise in conditions that endangered the health and safety of the community and the value of the parties' investments.

Stafford said that within hours of filing the motion, Smith called him and stated that he intended to pursue Rule 11 sanctions against him if he did not immediately withdraw the motion.

Stafford said even though he felt there was no legal basis for Smith's actions, he did not want to risk departing Saipan with an unresolved Rule 11 matter on file with the court.

Russian, 60, drowns at Obyan Beach

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 60-year-old Russian male tourist drowned while snorkeling outside the reef of Obyan Beach on Monday.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that the body of the victim, Gennadi Kosolapkin, was located at 9:40pm by a Guam U.S. Coast Guard Rescue 5 helicopter about two and a half nautical miles south of Obyan Beach.

Blas said the body was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced the victim dead at 10:43pm.

The victim's wife told police that they were snorkeling in the waters of Obyan when Kosolapkin went outside the reef alone.

The wife later returned to beach and sought the assistance of a diver to help her locate her husband.

The diver went out and later came ashore to inform her that he can't locate the tourist. At that point, the wife called 911 for assistance.

Blas said patrol police officers and Boating Safety officers responded to the emergency call at 5:02pm Monday.

Boating Safety's *Zodiac II* vessel was launched from Smiling Cove Marine for the search

and rescue operation. At Obyan Beach, responding police officers met the victim's wife, who told them about the incident.

The officers then conducted an area search by the shoreline as well as a visual search in the waters but failed to find the tourist.

Police Sgt. Edward Ayuyu set up a temporary command post at the beach in order to coordinate the search efforts of other responding agencies. Ayuyu later relocated the command post to Ladder Beach to obtain better communication signals.

Members of DPS Fire Search and Rescue Unit, the U.S. Coast Guard, Homeland Security, Emergency Management Office, and the American Red Cross joined the search.

At 7:30pm, the Rescue 5 helicopter arrived and conducted an aerial search using night vision equipment and a datum marker buoy. Datum marker buoys provide real-time current drift data that is used by the Coast Guard to establish probable search locations.

The helicopter located the victim's body at 9:40pm.

The body was retrieved and taken to the Saipan International Airport, where medics transported him to CHC. Dr. Florenca Schenker then pronounced the victim dead.

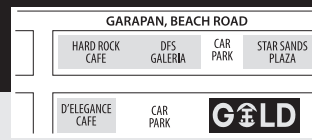
VISIT YTT GOLD Jewelry TODAY



Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn gold for **CASH!**

- Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
- Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
- We will give you CASH on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza



How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

■ **Friday, February 22nd** 8:30am - 4:00pm

■ **Saturday, February 23rd** 9:00am - 1:00pm

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan



**Ross
Hearing
Aids**

All interested patients should call
Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid



Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing
Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

Deleon Guerrero sworn in as DPS commissioner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero was sworn in yesterday afternoon as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, filling a position that had been vacant for almost a year.

Flanked by his wife Ni Deleon Guerrero and mother Maria Camacho Deleon Guerrero, James Deleon Guerrero took his oath before Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro during a ceremony attended by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, judges, dignitaries, and DPS personnel.

Deleon Guerrero is the first DPS commissioner to be sworn in front of the DPS building in Susupe. Previous commissioners were sworn in either at the governor's office or in court.

In his remarks, Deleon Guerrero promised to institute key institutional reforms, end the practice of isolationism, cease the consolidation of power, and diversify the workforce.

"The days of bullying, intimidation and harassment of other employees by any...ranking member of our workforce must and shall come to an end. These are cowardly acts that will not be tolerated," he said.

Stressing that there can only be one DPS commissioner, Deleon Guerrero urged any supervisor and ranking official who may be engaged in such activities "to find the path of good" and not be the product of obstructionism.

"For your sake, join those of us who are striving to become the force of good and let us together rebuild this department for the benefit of all," he said.

He cautioned those who want to test his resolve that it will be a "grave miscalculation" as he is no stranger to the institution.

"Good must always prevail over evil and, where appropriate, we discipline those who break the rules. But nonetheless, the process must be respected and followed," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he will be issuing directives and reorganizing the department in the next few days.

"My intentions are pure and are meant to embark on a course that sets the policies of our department going forward," he said.

For far too long, he said, the implementation of community policing has eluded the department, the empowerment of competent staff with potential have been largely ignored,

and outdated hiring requirements have been kept intact.

"We must change our methods, establish a human resource unit that keeps pace with the changing of the time and circumstances, and decentralize power and influence to prevent dictatorship in this department," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the last few months have been very difficult for DPS personnel as many have experienced some of the worst types of criticism by the media and many in the public.

"They were dark days that served as stark reminders that it is easier to lose trust and confidence than to gain it," he said.

The commissioner vowed to change this perception so that "the tides of pride will rise" and DPS personnel can once again be treated like the professionals they all are.

On human resources aspect, Deleon Guerrero said personnel training must be routine and well organized so as to reduce liabilities in the department.

On economic conditions, he said he will work at identifying reforms or potential areas by which revenues can be generated to support operating costs.

"This will take some time but, I am confident that we can get it done," he said. "Let us work together for I am confident that with your help, we all collectively can and will succeed."

A police officer who requested not to be named said yesterday that they are

very happy to have Deleon Guerrero as their new commissioner.

"He's a good guy. His résumé speaks for himself," said the officer, adding that Deleon Guerrero is actually the one keeping DPS alive as "he is the master" in obtaining federal grants.

PSS

From Page 1

American Samoa, which saw a \$7,831 increase; and the Virgin Islands, which saw a \$21,022 increase over same period. In the U.S., the median family income across the same 20 years saw an increase of \$29,200.

The data, Thornburgh said, can be interpreted to mean that 6 out of 10 students at PSS belong to poor families, or those whose income are below the federal poverty guidelines. These students are aged 5 to 17 years.

Thornburgh said there are 4,760 families in the CNMI whose incomes are below the federal poverty guideline.

The report also indicates that private school enrollment shows growth across the 20-year period in other insular areas except in the CNMI, which had with the lowest private school enrollment at 2,038 in 2010. Guam had 7,918; American Samoa, 4,904; and the U.S. Virgin Islands, 7,006.

In the public school enrollment, only

the CNMI shows an increase in 2010 compared to other areas, which all showed a decline in their enrollment numbers. The CNMI saw a 12-percent increase in PSS enrollment in the 10-year period: from 9,241 in 2000 to 10,369 in 2010.

The U.S. Virgin Islands' public school enrollment dropped 28 percent; American Samoa, by 14 percent; and Guam, by 2 percent.

"If we will combine public and private school enrollment for a total K-12 enrollment, only the Virgin Islands shows a 15-percent reduction in the number of students grades K-12," added Thornburgh.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said the data presents a clear picture of the reality that many families' income significantly declined.

"The family median income in the CNMI is only \$22,000 a year...how do you expect these families to properly provide for their kids? Their incomes are very low and we should be mindful where and how services are actually provided to children so we can ensure their success," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

IMPEACHMENT

From Page 1

the CNMI and any U.S. insular area to be impeached and face trial.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told reporters yesterday that the Senate recognizes the magnitude of the task assigned to it.

"It is each member's intention that this entire impeachment process be both expedient and fair," he said.

Senators will hear and consider all 18 articles of impeachment before voting on each one.

At least six affirmative votes or two-thirds of the nine-member Senate are needed to convict the governor on one or more of the 18 charges.

All Senate members will serve as jurors in the trial. They will be assisted by Senate counsels Joe Bermudes and Antonette Villagomez.

The Senate will appoint a judge to preside over the trial on March 7.

"On that day, the House prosecutor will present its case of impeachment and the governor or his counsel will appear before the Senate and present his defense," he added.

Hofschneider said the Senate has written to the Supreme Court chief justice asking to recommend two justices or judges for Senate consideration as presiding judge during the trial.

"On behalf of the Senate, I ask for the public's continued patience and understanding throughout this impeachment process. This is, without a doubt, a serious and unprecedented task set before us, and we are committed to giving it our full attention," Hofschneider added.

The House managers or prosecutor will be led by House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), main author of the impeachment resolution, along with Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the commit-

tee that reviewed the impeachment resolution in the 18th Legislature. They will be assisted by House counsels Joe Tajeron and John Cool.

Fitial's defense team, however, has yet to be known, although it is believed that he will have at least five counsels from within and outside the CNMI.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who is back on island, said yesterday that "because the impeachment process has now moved to the Senate for trial, the administration, as it does in cases that are in litigation, will no longer have any comments on this matter."

"The governor's legal team will now be the only appropriate authority to speak on his behalf. The administration's Public Information Office will continue to communicate the regular affairs of the administration to the media and the community," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The impeachment trial starting on March 7 will be from 9am to 5pm and is open to the public.

LEWIS

From Page 1

tent" in petitioning Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to support this plan.

Lewis, the national chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance, spoke at an immigration forum hosted by USP4GG Marianas Chapter on Sunday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"Immigration reform is coming; it should be extended to you. Whatever is passed in the U.S. Congress for undocumented aliens and immigrants in the mainland should also be given to you," Lewis said at the forum, drawing loud cheers from a crowd of over 300 nonresident workers, mostly Filipinos.

In a later interview, Lewis told reporters that a separate status for nonresident workers in the Commonwealth is not fair because many of these workers have been on the islands for many years and have contributed greatly to the island economy through the years.

"That is so unfair for me," Lewis said, referring to the CNMI-only status. "Why will they [nonresident workers in the CNMI] be separated from the rest of the people in the mainland?"

A former attorney general of INS, now U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Lewis said the only way for nonresident workers on the islands to be included in the immigration reform is via a special provision in the law coming from Sablan.

That special provision, Lewis said, would also ensure that legal nonresident workers are also taken into consideration as the comprehensive immigration reform plan only covers those workers who entered U.S. soil without proper documents or those who were initially documented but later lost their

working status.

"Whatever [Sablan] says will have a bearing on the rest of the congressmen in Washington, D.C. ... So whatever he proposes will be accepted on face value. Keep close tabs with what he is doing because he has a great sway with the Latino caucus in Congress," said Lewis.

Sablan was also in attendance last Sunday but did not stay until the end of the forum.

Lewis warned that without Sablan's support, the chance of having the benefits of the comprehensive immigration reform measure extended to nonresident workers in the CNMI is "zero." "It will just be the legalization of [undocumented workers] in the mainland."

Additionally, Lewis said the push for comprehensive immigration reform also needs the support of Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) since Guam is also part of the Marianas chain.

Lewis was scheduled to meet with Bordallo on Monday before flying to Manila for a global summit.

When asked if USP4GG will lobby for nonresident workers in the CNMI, Lewis responded that they are not a lobbying organization. She recommended, though, that these workers organize themselves and seek the services of prominent Filipino-American lobbyist Eric Lachica, who was instrumental in having Filipino war veterans receive compensation under the Obama administration.

She also advised nonresident workers to ask their voter friends to seek Sablan's support in having the comprehensive immigration reform extended to the Northern Marianas.

"We are in the best country in the world. You are responsible for your own happiness, so go and help yourselves," Lewis told her audience.

BUDGET

From Page 1

quired to live within their means.

"Between now and the time we submit the budget, it will still be \$114 million. But keep in mind, we still have time until July to make an amendment to the budget," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last year, the administration revised its fiscal year 2013 budget plan from \$102 million to \$114 million.

While the impeachment trial against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be in full swing in March, Inos would be working on the administration's budget submission to the Legislature.

The administration has an April 1 deadline to submit a new spending package.

He said the \$114 million budget plan means the administration does not see further activity that would change the initial projection. Inos said the 2013 budget already took into account the

tourism arrival improvements that the CNMI is now seeing.

"We put that in our calculations. Number two, we're in peak season right now. So end-March, early April, traditionally it starts slowing down," Inos said.

One major change in the proposed 2014 budget is that the administration will propose a certain budget for each agency's utility bills instead of providing a lump sum government utility budget.

"We're going to say you have to have budget to cover it, and that's it... Right now, there's attitude that it's not affecting their budget so no [utility use] conservation," he said.

Inos said Medicaid spending should also be within limit, citing the implementation of a so-called certified public expenditure or CPE, "where CHC's expense is treated as match."

Yumul, for his part, said the lieutenant governor's statement about the budget for the next fiscal year is a "starting point."

Mandatory health insurance for foreign workers repealed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday a two-year-old bill removing the mandatory requirement for CNMI employers to pay 100 percent of their foreign workers' medical insurance for nonresident workers—a new law that some affected workers said would force them to forego buying medical insurance altogether if employers do not commit to pay at least half of it.

House Bill 17-147, introduced by former representative Diego Benavente, is now Public Law 17-92.

The measure says the annual 50-cent minimum wage increase should be “sufficient for nonresident workers to provide for themselves and pay for their medical coverage as well.”

The CNMI's minimum wage is \$5.55 an hour.

“Additionally, the removal of such mandated benefits will create fairness for all employees within the Commonwealth, nonresident and resident workers alike,” Public Law 17-92 reads in part.

The 100 percent health insurance coverage for alien workers now becomes “optional” rather than “mandatory” for employers.

Carlito Marquez, a nonresident worker, said yesterday the “impact is severe that affects all foreign workers' livelihood, considering the high cost of medication on the island.”

“Employers are indirectly driving away foreign workers,” he added.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., separately said yesterday that without this mandatory requirement for employers to pay 100 percent of their alien workers' health insurance, it will further subject foreign workers to financial hardships and they may end up not having any insurance at all.

He reiterated his earlier concerns that if workers need to be hospitalized without insurance, the government hospital would have to bear the costs, at least until the foreign worker pays.

“On the other hand, we also have to understand that there are small employers that are hardly making money because of the economy so this could also help them,” Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

MAHAL had hoped the Senate will amend the bill to require the employer to pay at least 50 percent of their foreign workers' health insurance.

However, the bill went to the governor without amendments.

Vetoed tourism bill

The governor, at the same time,

vetoed Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-185, House Draft 1, which authorizes the Marianas Visitors Authority to regulate tour operators and tour guides by amending an existing law, citing “some very serious concerns” that MVA raised.

“The MVA raised concerns with program's funding source because they anticipate that in order to comply with the bill to have the MVA enforce, regulate, and educate the tourism industry, it will require [the MVA to hire] additional

personnel and purchase additional office equipment,” the governor said in his veto message to Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan).

Fitial said MVA is also “very concerned with the overly broad definition of ‘tour guide’ which may make regulating the industry even harder.”

“I encourage the Legislature to work closely with MVA to address these and MVA's other concerns to ensure MVA can regulate tourism and further the legislative intent. Failure to do so would create an unnecessary burden to our number one money generating industry in the CNMI,” the governor added.

Villagomez, when asked for comment yesterday, said he was

planning on recycling this bill had it not been passed by the Senate and acted on by the governor. He was planning on working with MVA anyway and make some changes to it before introducing it in the 18th Legislature.

\$75,880 for Rota

The governor also signed into local law a measure appropriating \$75,880 in poker license fees for Rota patients, scholarship and other programs and services on the island.

Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-3, Substitute 1 is now Rota Local Law 18-1.

The \$75,880 is appropriated as follows: \$63,900 for the subsistence allowance of Rota patients undergoing dialysis treatment and with terminal illnesses; \$4,500 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship; \$4,500 for retroactive salary payment of Rota employees; \$1,000 for the Rota Liaison Office on Saipan for fuel; \$500 for the Rota Little League; \$1,000 for the Department of Public Safety-Rota/Fire for fuel; and \$480 for the Office of the Rota Mayor's fuel expenses.

The new local law also says that the Medical Assistance Board established under Rota Local Law 17-19 will continue to exist to make eligibility determinations under RLL 18-1.

The approved subsistence allowance shall not exceed \$450 a month.

U Save Car Rental

#1 choice on Saipan with the BEST affordable rates on island!
We have Sedans, SUV's, Luxury Sedans, Trucks & more!
FREE pick-up and drop off service
989-4676 / 888-2205
Located in Chalan Laulau, Middle Rd.
Some conditions may apply

Powerful love specialist
psychic Olga solves all
problems, reunites lovers,
true answers.

Call now for FREE
reading 1-518-618-5673.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **February 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **February 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION
IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **February 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations — up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza — up to 6:00pm
Online payment — up to 9:00pm

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mobil

- Eucon International School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman Elementary School
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Marianas High School
- Mt. Carmel School
- Saipan Community School
- Saipan International School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Tanapag Elementary School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

- Dan Dan Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy
- G.T. Camacho Elementary School
- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan International School
- Tanapag Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

SILVER SPONSORS

Brabu
Pharmacy and Wellness Center

- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High School

IT&E
Life in Motion

- Hopwood Junior High School
- Kagman High School
- Marianas High School
- Saipan Southern High

TakeCare

- Grace Christian Academy
- Mt. Carmel School
- San Antonio Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic

- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan SDA School
- WSR Elementary School

BRONZE SPONSORS

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy

Century Insurance

- Hopwood Junior High School
- Marianas High School

COSMOS
Distributing Co., Ltd

- Garapan Elementary School
- Marianas High School

D&Q
International Distributors
A Traveling Company

- Tanapag Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

POI Aviation

- Dan Dan Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce

- Kagman Elementary School
- WSR Elementary School

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP

- Oleai Elementary School
- San Antonio Elementary School

KEYNOTES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

- Green Meadow School
- Green Meadow Pre-school

If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

Rota mayor backs GPPC plan to service Rota via ship

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola welcomes GPPC Inc.'s plans to provide commercial cargo services between Rota and Saipan through MV *Jayden*, saying the move demonstrates

the company's willingness to help the people of Rota.

Mendiola said in a phone interview Monday that the landing-craft style ship made on Saipan would help address the cargo crisis on the southernmost island in the CNMI.

"It's something that's a wel-

EMO warns of rough seas, high surf

The CNMI Emergency Management Office reiterated yesterday its small craft and high surf advisories, saying that hazardous surf and rough seas will not subside until tonight, Wednesday evening.

The EMO notice states that moderate to fresh trade winds will continue all week, although the gusts should diminish by Wednesday night. Combined seas of 9 to 11 feet should also diminish by Wednesday night to around 8 feet.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Wednesday. A high surf advisory also remains in effect until 6pm Wednesday.

"East winds of 15 to 20 knots with frequent gusts to 30 knots are expected...with gusts diminishing to 25 knots Wednesday. Combined seas of 9 to 11

feet will subside to around 9 feet by Wednesday evening," the EMO notice states.

Along north facing reefs, surf should fall below hazardous levels to 6 to 8 feet sometime Wednesday. Along east facing reefs, surf should fall below hazardous levels to 9 to 11 feet by Wednesday evening.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. **(EMO)**

come development for the people of Rota. It's a good alternative," he said.

GPPC, which does infrastructure and construction projects in the Commonwealth, announced early this month its plan to use MV *Jayden* to ship materials and equipment for its projects on Rota. In response to overwhelming requests, it said it will also provide commercial cargo services to the island.

MV *Jayden*, which measures 79 feet long and can carry about 70 tons of cargo, held a successful dry run at the Rota East

Harbor on the first week of February and Mendiola said he is pleased that GPPC has proven its ability to serve their island.

"We're very happy to see that GPPC is willing to help and serve the people of Rota. This is the solution we need to address our problem. I thank their management for helping the Rota community in times of our need and hope that they will continue to provide these services," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Mendiola, the shipping woes on Rota has resulted in empty store

shelves and shortages in basic commodities, prompting businesses to ship goods via air freight, which meant additional expenses passed on to consumers.

While he supports GPPC's services, Mendiola noted that the company should be registered with the proper agencies and meet the requirements for their operations.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) had asked Attorney General Patrick San Nicolas to issue a cease and desist order against GPPC. San Nicolas,

however, did not grant the request and said that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is the agency tasked to regulate ports in the CNMI.

The attorney general also noted that Santos is correct in asserting that the Department of Public Lands has no authority to allow GPPC to dock its ship at Rota East Harbor for the one-time dry run.

Mendiola said his office is willing to provide assistance to GPPC so it can go through the proper procedures and get their cargo services launched.

Tinian mayor vows to step up efforts to enhance island

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz vows to step up efforts in keeping Tinian a safe and preferred destination amid a steady increase in tourism arrivals in the CNMI and in the wake of a deadly rampage in Guam.

Dela Cruz said Saturday that the improvement in the Commonwealth's No. 1 industry is a "positive thing" that serves as a "beacon of light" given the negative issues plaguing the community, particularly the ongoing impeachment proceeding.

He noted the important role of the Tinian Mayor's Office in this endeavor.

"People want to go to a destination where they feel safe. Tinian continues to boast that, that our community is still safe," he told *Saipan Tribune* during an interview at the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival held at Kammer Beach.

The two-day event once again attracted hundreds of visitors from Saipan, Guam, China, and Korea, resulting in



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz welcomes spectators to the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival held at Kammer Beach over the President's Day weekend.

fully booked reservations on car rental companies and Tinian's biggest hotel, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Besides its natural beauty, Tinian's "selling pitch" is that it remains peaceful and safe for

both residents and tourists, Dela Cruz emphasized.

In fact, he said, people can still camp out by the beach without feeling threatened and many residents still leave their houses unlocked.

"As mayor of Tinian, I will continue to work hard to enhance the community so people can come here and be awed by the beauty of the island," said Dela Cruz.

According to him, the rampage in Tumon, Guam, that killed three tourists and hurt several others last week was an isolated incident but it is in these times that a tourist destination has to strengthen its efforts to protect its guests.

"This is the price of development," he explained. "When more people come in, there's going to be more criminal activities also. The government should not fail in its effort to provide security for its visitors and residents. They should continue to work on that."

Dela Cruz said he continues to involve the Tinian population in his tourism enhancement program by encouraging them to become friendly to guests and take part in cleanup efforts.

He is also looking for funds to improve existing tourist facilities and add more amenities to appeal to more visitors.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP13-CHCC-078**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"ENTERPRISE CONTENT MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE DEPLOYMENT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ **JUAN N. BABAUTA** /S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
CEO – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. DIRECTOR, P&S

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer
Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Reporter
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course with at least 3 years work-related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

CITY TRUST BANK,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-)
SUZETTE O. SASAMOTO and FELIX)
SASAMOTO, JR.,)
Defendants.)

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1508, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011/G 30, the original of which was recorded on May 11, 1994, as Document No. 94-1218, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL &)
INSURANCE SERVICES)
GROUP, INC.,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-)
LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,)
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35' 00" E, 13.18 meters to Corner 3; Thence S 80° 13' 00" E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4; Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5; Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on, Friday, March 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Michael Norita Evangelista (Bar No. F-0364)
Attorney-at-Law
LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL NORITA
EVANGELISTA, LLC
Suite 2-C Sablan Building, Beach Road,
Chalan Kanoa
PO Box 5600 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-234-9006 / 233-8536
Facsimile No. 670-235-9007

Attorney for Petitioner Juan M. Mangloña

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE)
ESTATE OF:)
ALICIA CASTRO)
MANGLOÑA,)
Deceased.)

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 11-0131**

**FIRST
AMENDED
NOTICE
OF SALE**

**NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

**TO: CREDITORS AND INTERESTED
CLAIMANTS**

Notice is hereby given that Juan M. Mangloña, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Alicia C. Mangloña, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., P.O. Box 5600 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on petition is set for the 26th day of February, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 223A, at the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice - Guma Hustisia - Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice

Dated this 19th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

LAND ASSIGNMENT

1. **LAND AND BUILDING:** PICTURE ABOVE WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY
LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M
LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS

2. **LAND AND BUILDING**
WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS AND HOUSE
2 UNITS WITH TENANT
LAND AREA: 697 SQ. M
LOCATED AT BEACH ROAD GARAPAN NEXT TO CENTURY INSURANCE BUILDING AND SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3. **LAND : CONSIST OF 3 LOTS**
LAND (A): 737 SQ.M **LAND (B):** 779 SQ.M
LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT
WITH HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE FORMERLY ASIAPACIFIC CORP.
LAND AREA: 683 SQ.M
LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARAIANAS EYE CLINIC

4. **LAND AND BUILDING: CONSIST OF 2 LOTS**
WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET
AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS
LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M, LAND (B) 1111 SQ. M
LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA

5. **LAND AND HOUSE (FARM)**
LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ. M
LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE

6. **LAND AND BUILDING**
LAND AREA: 1,788 SQ.M
LOCATED IN AS LITO NEXT TO ST. JUDE CHURCH

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CALL NIKO CONSULTANT INC. OR
EMER AT 234-1816 OR 287-0693**

Pika Festival vendors see increased sales this year

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Booth concessionaires at the recently concluded 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival noted an increase in sales this year, with some booths having to restock or even running out of merchandise to sell.

Vendors and residents in general also prefer the festival's new and more spacious site at the Kammer Beach.

JM Snack Mobile's Susan Taimanao said in an interview that they had better sales this year than in 2012 as there were more tourists and visitors from neighboring islands who took part in Tinian's biggest annual celebration.

Taimanao said their booth, owned by her mother-in-law, Joaquin Magdalena San Nicolas, specializes in value-added products made from *donni sali*, the small but highly potent pepper that grows abundantly in the island's jungles.

To encourage customers to buy their products, Taimanao said they gave out free samples to potential customers so they can compare it to those sold by other booths.

"We ran out of our special hot pepper powder early on," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "We even had to reload our hot pepper paste twice because a lot of people were buying it."



JM Snack Mobile's Susan Taimanao and her daughter Viana attend to customer Malou Callejo-Lambat of Saipan on the second day of the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival at Kammer Beach. Booth concessionaires during the two-day event enjoyed an increase in sales for this year's festival. CLARISSA V. DAVID

Besides their *donni sali* specialties, Taimanao said they also sold local culinary offerings, including the homemade *tamales gisu*, which is made of rice and bacon and is spicy on one side.

Taimanao revealed that they had wondered if they could attract tourists to participate in the festival at Kammer Beach. She noted that the former site, Tachogna Beach, was just a walk away from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino where majority of the island's

visitors stay.

"But Kammer Beach is bigger and has a lot of open space, so in a way it's good to have the festival here," she added.

JC Café staffers Malou Mercado and Jing Biton said their bestsellers were the pearl shakes and new menu items such as the fajitas, quesadillas, and tacos.

"We prefer this venue because you can really feel the festive ambiance here," they said.

For Marciana Cruz, owner

of the booth that won the decoration contest, the increase in tourist arrivals translated to improved sales this year.

Cruz's booth offers *donni sali* products in addition to hot lunch and dinner, which cost \$6 per order.

"You would know that sales really improved because even during the soft opening, customers were already flocking to the festival grounds," she said.

Since the festival is a once-a-

year event, Cruz said entrepreneurs like her really take advantage of the festival to promote their business. Like others, she prefers the new site because it's more spacious.

"I think that wherever organizers hold it, people would still come because the Pika Festival is the signature event of Tinian," said Cruz.

Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz said that Kammer Beach may finally be the "permanent place"

for the annual festival. He said that they will enhance the area by planting more large trees to provide shade to festival goers.

He said his office, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the CNMI Department of Commerce, would first do a survey to assess the economic impact and viability of permanently moving the festival to Kammer Beach.

"We just want to be sure that we're going in the right direction," he added.

Dela Cruz emphasized that he will continue to request the Department of Public Lands to designate the former festival site, Tachogna Beach, to the Mayor's Office.

Tachogna Beach is in need of major repair, and Dela Cruz said they want the designation to happen before they look for capital improvement funds to finance the repair work.

He believes the designation of Tachogna Beach is being blocked because it continues to generate revenue for DPL.

"But the revenue is very small and insignificant," noted Dela Cruz.

He added that Tachogna Beach should still be enhanced even if it won't be the venue for the festival as the area is still visited frequently by residents and tourists alike.

Dela Cruz said that DPL has its legal counsel working on the legality of the designation.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation*," to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



JVA No. 13-016

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(Revised 2-15-13)

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. **Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for:** Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vactor trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the *United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS: Two (2).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail:

Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Amelia Earhart presentation on Friday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites the public to a presentation titled "Earhart on Saipan" that will be held at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center Theater on Friday evening, Feb. 22, starting at 6pm.

The presentation will be given by noted filmmakers and authors Michael Harris and Richard Martini who are investigating the mysterious disappearance of Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan on the last leg of their round-the-world flight in 1937.

Using a variety of eyewitness



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

accounts and other information, Harris and Martini will summarize the evidence suggesting that Earhart and Noonan crash-landed in the Marshall Islands and spent their last days on Saipan.

Harris and Martini will also describe their current research project on Saipan, which includes interviews with eyewitnesses and their efforts to locate pieces of Earhart's airplane which, according to some reports, was captured on Saipan by the U.S. military in June 1944.

This presentation, a part of the Humanities Council's Community Lecture Series, is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information, contact Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)



CLARISSA V. DAVID

GUAM VISITORS

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz is flanked by the senior citizens from Santa Rita, Guam, during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival over the weekend on Tinian. The annual festival drew more tourists and visitors from neighboring islands this year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Masters volleyball tournament

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to a masters softball tournament this coming Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at 11am, Dandan Elementary School field, continuing every Sunday until June 2013. For more information, call Tonnei at 483-9665. (PR)

Tinian Municipal Council sets session

The 14th Tinian Municipal Council will be having a regular session on Monday, Feb. 25, 2013, at 10am, at the Municipal Council Conference Room. Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Council Clerk at the municipal council office, prior to the convening of the session. Oral testimony may be presented during Council's session. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform the Council Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the session. (PR)

ARC Preparedness Health & Safety training set

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Feb. 20 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- Feb. 21 at 6pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Feb. 27 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- Feb. 28 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

Survivors and caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly

support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. The guest speaker will be Ronal Sablan, Medical Referral director, and the topic will be about "Medical Referral Policies Procedures.Updates." To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (CCA)

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today and Friday, Feb. 20 and 22, from 9am to 2pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

Public library offer rummage sale space

To coincide with the monthly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Book Sale, the library will be providing space for a rummage/parking lot sale on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, from 7:30am to 1pm. The cost is \$25 for a 10x20 space. Reserve a slot as space is limited. All proceeds collected will be used for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and JKPL anniversary celebration. (JKPL)

DPL suspends accepting grazing permit applications on Saipan

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications for agricultural and grazing permits for subsistence purposes on public land, effective Feb. 18, 2013. This moratorium affects only those applying for AGPs on the island of Saipan. (DPL)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 20, 2004

USDA: Kagman project to benefit all

Although some traffic inconveniences will continue in the near future, the completion of the Kagman Watershed Project will benefit Kagman residents and farmers, as well as the rest of the island, assured Scott Crockett, District Conservationist for the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Saipan. To date, nearly \$4.4 million in federal funds have been spent on project design and construction activities, compared to just over \$817,000 in local funds. The project, once fully completed, will have estimated annual benefits of \$180,000 of flood prevention and \$500,000 of irrigation water supply. Other benefits will include an enhanced farm economy, wildlife habitat protection, reduced pressure on the aquifer, a healthier coral reef and a cleaner marine environment.

SGMA works with oversight board on subcontractors

All subcontracting companies that perform work for any member of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, as listed in the U.S. District Court settlement agreement, shall be monitored just as any factory on Saipan. SGMA provided a listing of all subcontracting entities performing embroidery, printing, laundering and finishing work for any SGMA member to the Garment Oversight Board's chairman Timothy Bellas. The SGMA Compliance Committee's members and the SGMA executive director began inspections of the firms that provide services to its membership, but often are overlooked when it comes to wage payments, safety and health conditions and other employee rights concerns.

Feb. 20, 2005

'Stateless' lawyer: We should have won it in district court

From the beginning, lawyer Reynaldo O. Yana said he knew that the "stateless" persons' case would prevail. In fact, he said the case should have been won much earlier in the U.S. District Court. "We should have even won at the district court. I don't know why we lost at the district court when the law is very, very clear," said Yana in an interview Friday. District Court judge Alex Munson had denied the petition of 28 stateless persons for U.S. citizenship. Two of the 28 petitioners-Jacinto Sabangan and Esther Sheon-appealed the decision at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Okawa retires after 31 years of PSS service

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council has adopted a resolution commending Antonia Aguon Camacho Okawa for her exemplary contribution to the Public School System at William S. Reyes Elementary School. Okawa retired after 31 years of active duty at the school. Okawa is the daughter of Rafael Daiz and Mrs. Tomasa Aguon Camacho (both deceased). She is married to Ryo Okawa of Aomari, Japan, and they have three children: Chamie, Lanelle and Ray. Okawa graduated from Hopwood Junior-Senior High School on June 7, 1968. She received her associated degree in elementary education at the Northern Marianas College and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Guam.

Feb. 20, 2006

CEC commissioners can make pol contributions

Members of the Commonwealth Election Commission will be allowed to give, but they cannot receive from any political candidate or party if an election reform bill is signed into law. House Bill 15-149, or the proposed Commonwealth Election Reform Act of 2006, excludes any restriction on campaign contributions by election commissioners. However, it carries strict prohibition on commissioners receiving anything of value from campaigns. According to the bill, a commissioner could be removed from office if he or she is found to have received anything of value from a nominee, a candidate or candidate's committee, or a political party.

GOP bans alcohol in party's political activities

Having lost the last gubernatorial race, the local GOP is poised to enter this year's midterm election with a new strategy, and it hopes, a more sober image. In addition to introducing a new village-centric approach to campaigning, the NMI Republican Party's board of directors has adopted a no-alcohol policy in party activities. GOP president Tom Pangelinan said no alcoholic beverages will be served at any political activities of the Republican Party. "This is to pronounce that we are the people's choice. We came to the conclusion that during campaign activities, a lot of kids, women, and other people are listening. It creates a bad image for the party when we have some members drinking alcohol around them," Pangelinan said.

Pacific

2 charged in Papua New Guinea 'witch' killing

SYDNEY (AP)—Papua New Guinea police have charged two people with the grisly killing of a woman who was tortured and burned alive in front of hundreds of people, including young children, after being accused of witchcraft.

Janet Ware and Andrew Watea were charged with murder over the slaying of Kepari Leniata, a 20-year-old mother who was stripped, tortured with a hot iron rod, doused in gasoline and set alight on a pile of car tires and trash by a mob earlier this month.

Leniata had been accused of sorcery by relatives of a 6-year-old boy who had died in a hospital. Ware and Watea are believed to be the boy's mother and uncle,

police said in a statement.

The two charged Monday were among more than 40 people who were detained last week in connection with Leniata's slaying. The others were eventually released due to lack of evidence, but police said more arrests are expected.

In rural Papua New Guinea, witchcraft is often blamed for unexplained misfortunes, but the brutal killing was met with outrage across the South Pacific island nation, drawing condemnation from the prime minister, police and diplomats.

Police said the hundreds of onlookers, many of whom were children and teenagers, were powerless to stop the mob who

participated in Leniata's killing in the Western Highlands provincial capital of Mount Hagen. Police officers were also

among the spectators, but were outnumbered and couldn't save the woman, national police spokesman Dominic Kakas

said. An internal investigation is under way into the police's actions at the scene.

Murder is punishable by

death in Papua New Guinea, although no one has been hanged since the country became independent in 1975.



In this Feb. 6, 2013 file photo, bystanders watch as a woman accused of witchcraft is burned alive in the Western Highlands provincial capital of Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea. AP

UOG launches chemistry competition

The University of Guam Chemistry Department is organizing its Annual Titration Competition for high schools on March 12, 2013, from 8:30am to 2pm. The competition is part of UOG Charter Day celebration. The competition will be held at the chemistry laboratory, SC230, in the Science Building at UOG campus.

All high schools in Guam are invited to participate in this event. Each school will be allowed to send two teams to this competition with each team comprising two students. As part of the preparation, a practice session will be held on March 1, 2013 at 2pm. Teams must register to participate in the both practice and the competition. The best team and best individual

performances will be recognized. Members of chemistry faculty, staff, and students will be facilitating this event.

To register for the competition download and complete the registration form and send it to us through email or fax. All students who are going to participate are also required to complete the Indemnity and Media Release Form.

Forms can be downloaded at <http://www.uog.edu/dynamicdata/CNASChemistryTitration.aspx?siteid=2&p=647>.

Closing date for registration for the competition is Feb. 22, 2013.

Entry forms and inquiries must be sent to Dr. Maika Vuki at mvuki@uogam.uog.edu or fax at (671) 734-1299. **(PR)**

'Pacific dengue outbreaks do not pose high risk'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Despite the recent outbreak of dengue fever in New Caledonia, travelers to the Pacific region are not at high risk of the disease if they take precautions, according to the World Health Organization.

Dr. Eric Nilles says the disease is spread by mosquitoes—and temperature, rainfall, and

humidity are all factors in the likelihood and severity of outbreaks.

He says people can take preventive steps by clearing rubbish and emptying water containers around homes and using insect repellents.

He says dengue has the

potential to cause substantial problems to the health of communities with large economic burdens on small nations but most parts of the region are currently dengue-free.

"There is a fairly substantial outbreak in New Cale-

donia, there is also a small outbreak in Solomon Islands, there is an outbreak in Federated States of Micronesia, and then there's just a couple of cases just recently reported from French Polynesia. A relatively small number when you consider there are more than 20 islands, countries and territories in the Pacific."

» Travelers reminded to take preventive steps

Waa'gey planning and partnership tour a success

Larry Raigetal of the community-based organization "Waa'gey" has returned to Yap, Micronesia following a planning and partnership tour in the United States.

Raigetal met with a range

of public sector officials and private citizens across several states, the District of Columbia, and the territory of Guam.

"It was great to talk with policy leaders, philanthropists, cultural aficionados and others.

I was surprised by the interest in—and frankly awareness of—the big issues we are facing in Micronesia," said Raigetal. "Everywhere I went, folks were particularly excited about Waa'gey and eager to help."

Working across Yap State, Waa'gey uses traditional skills to confront the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the people of Micronesia's most remote outer islands.

The planning and partnership trip began with time in and around Washington, D.C. Raigetal conferred with officials from the U.S. departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services. He also sat down with retired State Department officials as well as former Peace Corps volunteers living in the Virginia and Maryland suburbs around Washington.

Raigetal then traveled south to the Carolinas. He met with Curtis Loftis, the State Treasurer of South Carolina. Loftis is the



HABELE

Waa'gey's Larry Raigetal and Travis Coffman of Guam's K57.

founder, chairman and primary benefactor of the Saluda Foundation, a development group known for its innovative and cost-effective work in Eastern Europe and South America. He advised Raigetal on how to grow Waa'gey in a sustainable way.

"The Treasurer told it to me straight," said Raigetal. "Never let your work or the group become an end in itself," he said, "focus on empowering people

at the grassroots with the end goal of making the organization itself unnecessary."

Raigetal also took time to meet with volunteers and donors to Habele, a group that has provided Waa'gey with support for its canoe carving and skirt weaving projects.

Traveling west back to the Pacific, Raigetal spent several days in Guam. He appeared as a guest on "The Big Show"

with Travis Coffman. The call-in talk radio show on KGUM gave Raigetal the chance to share information about the Waa'gey canoe project with Micronesians living on Guam and local Chamorro groups who are similarly working to revive and sustain traditional carving and sailing techniques. Raigetal followed up with site visits and meetings with several of these Guam-based efforts, including the Traditions Affirming our Seafaring Ancestry. He also met with U.S. corporations in Guam interested in community outreach in Micronesia.

Back in Yap, seated in the open-air traditional canoe house beside the lagoon, Raigetal is circumspect about the trip. "I think of the chilly snowy days, staring up at the awesome monuments in D.C. and the grace and hospitality of my hosts in the Carolinas," he explains. "Most of all I think to how the lessons learned and relationships made can help the people and places right here in Yap State." **(Habele)**



HABELE

Waa'gey's Larry Raigetal and Curtis Loftis, Treasurer of South Carolina.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 36Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The audacity of Jesse Jackson Jr.

Slow this down. Think it through, in all its remarkable, reprehensible detail.

Ask yourself how an enormously gifted attorney, accustomed to the national limelight even before his eight terms in the U.S. House, could think his bold conduct involving staff members and other potential witnesses against him would remain secret.

Ask how he could squander a probable lifetime position in Congress. Squander all the good he might do there for the people he had sought to provide with better jobs and better futures.

Ask how he could humiliate not one but three generations of his globally known family—his famous father and his young children included.

No, Jesse Jackson Jr. wouldn't be the first to purposefully slow-walk that years-long walk. Not the first to delight in secret luxuries and expensive acquisitions along a reliable, efficient path to the self-destruction of his career and his reputation.

Imagine, though, the depth of conniving, or self-delusion, or entitlement, or sheer audacious recklessness, that the federal accusations against Jackson would have required of him. What the feds on Friday suggested had happened here is a sustained crime spree that could succeed only if a man ensnared by elaborate financial reporting requirements somehow kept it all secret.

Fat chance for a politician so prominent that he didn't even include his name on his campaign signs. Just the abbreviated suffix: "Jr."

We're talking about that fabulously blessed congressman—a pol seriously mentioned as a future Chicago mayor or U.S. president—allegedly converting some \$750,000 in campaign donations for the personal benefit of himself and his wife, Sandi.

That's more money than many of the defrocked congressman's former constituents on the South Side of Chicago will earn in their lifetimes. And it doesn't include an additional \$28,500 in allegedly undisclosed gifts and loans, and enough dishonest paperwork to earn hard time.

Imagine either of them, the former congressman or the former alderman to whom he's married, variously deciding there would be no consequence other than self-satisfaction from filching that money to allegedly buy:

- A gold-plated men's Rolex watch: \$43,350.
- Children's furniture: \$9,587.64.
- Cashmere capes, a mink reversible parka and black fox reversible parka: \$5,150.
- Martial arts actor Bruce Lee memorabilia: \$10,105.
- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. memorabilia: \$11,130.
- Performer Michael Jackson memorabilia (including two hats and Eddie Van Halen guitar): \$26,700.
- Electric blues musician Jimi Hendrix memorabilia: \$2,775.
- And what the U.S. Department of Justice describes as, "Football signed by American Presidents": \$5,000.

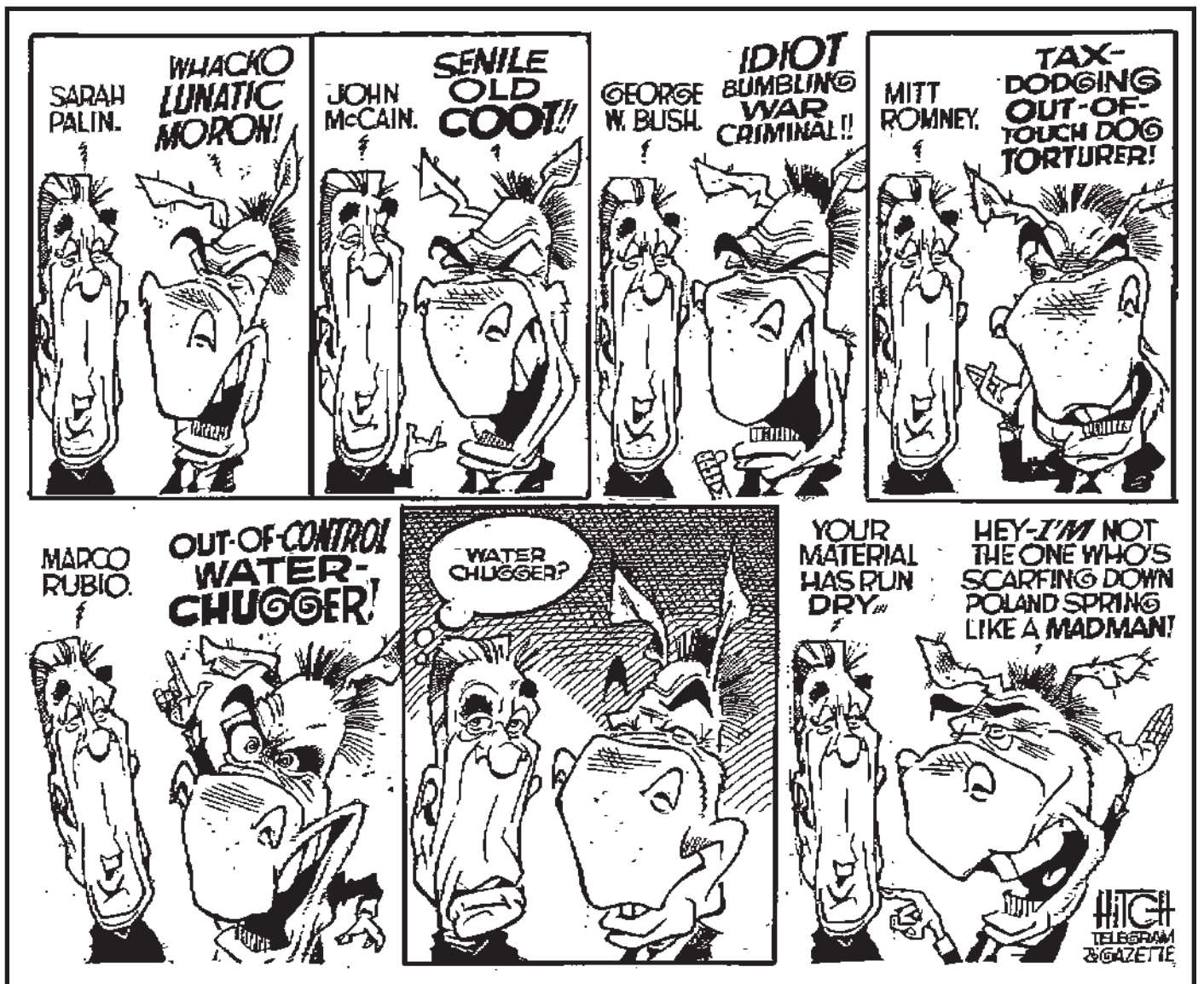
Those items, all totaled, don't approach \$750,000. So surely there are other, allegedly illicit expenditures, not itemized in the government's 10-page document accusing Jesse Jackson Jr. of conspiracy, false statements, mail fraud and wire fraud.

The nature of the document, called a criminal information,

See AUDACITY on Next Page



Jackson Jr.



What's the law?

In 2011, Anwar Awlaki, a U.S. citizen, was reportedly targeted and killed by our government in a drone attack. Ever since, a chorus of scholars, lawyers and civil and human rights activists has been asking about due process. Now we know they were right to be concerned. The Obama administration's lawyers have gotten it wrong.

The Justice Department "white paper" leaked early this month raises many troubling legal, ethical and policy questions, but none is more fundamental to our democracy than the way it deals with the 5th Amendment's admonition: No American citizen shall "be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The administration memo concludes that there are no due process problems with a drone program that targets Americans, and it relies primarily on *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, a 2004 Bush-era Supreme Court decision, to justify that conclusion. But the memo writers make an inexcusable mistake: They cherry-pick the decision, disregarding the heart of what the justices said.

In the case, Yasir Hamdi, a U.S. citizen picked up on the battlefield in Afghanistan, sought to challenge his indefinite detention in a U.S. military facility as an enemy combatant. The Bush administration argued that, in wartime, the executive alone should determine who the enemy is and what measures can be used against him.

But the Supreme Court disagreed. It remanded Hamdi's case to a lower court for a factual review of the accuracy of his enemy combatant designation. The review never happened; after the government lost in court, it released Hamdi and deported him.

The Supreme Court's reasoning in *Hamdi* remains the most relevant legal precedent that applies to targeted killings. Significantly, eight of the nine justices agreed that Hamdi was entitled to an impartial review, outside the executive branch, of the facts of the case. Only Justice Clarence Thomas bought the Bush administration's theory of executive power. "Due process requires nothing more than a good-faith executive determination," he wrote in his dissent. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing the principal opinion, reminded us of the court's decades-long admonition: "A state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens."

O'Connor further explained how the due process clause operates in wartime when the executive branch is making a determination about the fate of an American citizen. Hamdi's interest in liberty, she wrote, must be balanced against the needs of the executive in fighting a war:

"Whatever power the United States Constitution envisions for the executive ... in times of conflict, it most assuredly envisions a role for all three branches when individual liberties are

By VICKI DIVOLL

Los Angeles Times

Vicki Divoll is a former deputy legal advisor to the CIA's Counterterrorism Center and former general counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



at stake.... (I)t would turn our system of checks and balances on its head to suggest that a citizen could not make his way to court with a challenge to the factual basis for his detention by his government, simply because the executive opposes making available such a challenge."

You don't need a law degree to apply that reasoning to targeted killings. If the executive cannot act alone when an American's liberty is at stake in the post-9/11 war on terrorism, the Supreme Court would be at least as concerned when an American's life is on the line. The court has always ruled that the more crucial the individual interest at stake, the more "process" is due.

But what if the target presented an "imminent threat"? What about battlefield exigencies in the war on terrorism? The white paper makes much of such justifications for swift executive action, and yet we've been assured by Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and CIA Director-designate John Brennan that targeting decisions and the order to kill do not occur without painstaking deliberation by a high-level official. (Indeed, reports indicate that Awlaki's name was put on a hit list at least 17 months before the drone attack that killed him.) In other words, there would be time for an impartial review of facts.

On the whole, the administration's white paper reads like a brief advocating for one outcome, not a dispassionate discussion of the law. It ignores the fact that eight of nine Supreme Court justices ruled that the executive branch may not take away our liberty on its own say-so, and merely cites the requirement of a balancing test—individual rights against the need to fight a war—and concludes that the balance tips for the executive to act on his own in targeted killings.

The Obama administration continues to fight to keep the specific issue of targeted killing from reaching a court for review and decision. So we have only our objective reading of the decision in *Hamdi* to tell us what the law is. It cannot be what President Obama's lawyers would have us believe because when President Bush's lawyers made these same arguments, they lost.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hale Ho'ola Hou: The House of New Life

Pastor Richard Wong led the staff of the Church in creating a walk-in health care clinic in 1975, now known as the Kalihi-Palama Health Center, to serve the numerous uninsured, poor, immigrant, minority families in the community. The various health-related operations are scientific in methodology, urban in style, and secular in ethos. The religious metaphors of Christendom stayed within the confines of the Church. The Center's services address Hawaii's rainbow folks regardless of, or in the absence of, any religious affiliation.

The Center grew in 37 years to include dental, family planning, nutrition (for women and children), pre-school, optometry, mental, midwife, behavioral and social work, community-based multidisciplinary training, haven for the homeless and mentally-challenged, and diabetes services. It is a comprehensive health care center on North King Street.

Kaumakapili was organized and first served the Hawaiian population in a section of Honolulu dubbed as the unofficial Ellis Island of Hawaii. New immigrants into Hawaii tended to congregate in the area before being absorbed into Honolulu and beyond.

Kalihi-Palama is across Aala creek, the old edge of the city by Chinatown where Sino folks in the beginning serviced consumer demands of the *haole* (Caucasian)—high end—to the farm hands. Like historic Chinatowns in other places, shopkeepers lived atop their establishment while the rest of the population stayed at the periphery. Powerful carpetbaggers camped up Makiki Heights while the royal blood resided in Nuuanu valley heading toward the Pali lookout. Some communities in the mainland have “across the rail tracks” ghettos; Honolulu has Kalihi-Palama “north of the Aala creek.”

Kaumakapili across Aala first served marginalized Hawaiians, then the Samoans. By '85, the Filipinos proliferated (their exper-

tise, clerical and medical, now staffs the Health Center), southeast Asians flowed in '90, Polynesians in '95, a couple of years before the country's Welfare Reform intensified the Center's growing pains. At the turn of the century, Micronesians came in droves as remnants of the old Trust Territory of the Pacific, particularly the well-off, politically came to their own. This led Kalihi-Palama to envision services beyond emergencies and band-aid measures. The Center dug in for the long haul with the support of private foundations and the Aloha United Way.

Our brief but first visit to the area was in 1965. Aldersgate United Methodist in Liliha served *Pinoys*. St. Elizabeth Episcopal is just a mangrove tree away next door from Congregationalist Kaumakapili. St. Teresa Catholic Church gathers the faithful four blocks away mountainside. Now an imposing Hawaii Dojo (Zen Buddhist) hosts some of the Center's offices and programs. All provide a haven for immigrants. The old mangrove (banyan tree) is still there, majestic in its shade as it graciously ages, and serves as a canopy for the Saturday open and street market.

Having disengaged our self from the CNMI's health insurance service when we severed our PSS employ, we availed of K-P's dental, ophthalmological, and medical services as a low-income resident of Hawaii. I noted the breath of the center's services and having worked as an associate at a computer shop at the outskirts of Washington, D.C. a couple of decades back, I have no quarrel with the quality of their customer service.

My dad in the early '80s—after serving a Methodist circuit charge in the southern villages of the big island of Hawaii, proceeding to landscape a historic house in Makiki Heights used in the 2010 movie *Descendants*—found himself and my mother in transition and resided at the corner of Desha and North King in an old ramshackle wooden storefront befitting old Texas' Dodge City.

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Low-income housing now litter the K-P landscape, and Aala park nearby is a regular hide-and-seek arena between the cart-pushing homeless and the police. N. King Street is an inner city with warehouses lining the street toward the international airport, and ethnic storefront mom-and-pop stores are scattered in between.

This is all to say that Kalihi-Palama is more than to us a geography from which one moves away from. It remains the area for new immigrants as well as those barely eking out an existence. We are empathetically at home in the area, as we once were in CK and Oleai on Saipan.

The Kalihi-Palama Health Center has services scattered in many places, and as the U.S. economic recession hits marginal enterprises, the Center appears bent to occupy vacated storefronts. This may not be the most efficient way to operate an integrated and comprehensive health service, but my limited experience with the many non-English clientele makes the informality and earthiness of the surroundings a homey venue for the recipients of health care.

Perhaps the CNMI might look at health care as a communal responsibility rather than an extension of governance; K-P delivers services *sans* rancor and apology.

We laud the efforts of *Hale Ho'ola Hou*—The House of New Life.

Obama runs out of excuses

As we struggle to make sense of the impeachment and impending trial, I've kept an eye on the national debate on overspending, superficially veiled by the “no problem” aura President Obama spouts on the ballooning \$16 trillion-plus cumulative deficit of the federal government. Strange that he wants a new debt limit. Obamacare and the myriad of heavy costly policies have forced doctors to close clinics or force more businesses to hold back in order to figure out the beastly impositions.

Mr. O also has strong contempt for the U.S. Constitution. He thinks he should have unfettered control over “recess appointments,” shot down recently by a D.C. appellate court. But imagine if he has this discretion. He'd call Senate lunch breaks “recess” and appoint Chuck Hagel to the Pentagon and nobody would second-guess him.

He spouted another increase in the federal minimum wage, re-echoing and reconfirming his socialistic redistributionist policy and demonizing and penalizing the success of hardworking fellow citizens via rugged individualism of personal responsibility and accountability. A fact check of his statement by the Associated Press relegated his vacuous rhetoric to the trash bin. His SOTU was designed to recapture the Nancy Pelosi chamber she lost two years ago—no more, no less.

Shifting sands of Senate insecurity

The Senate has confirmed a certain nominee based on a legal opinion from the AG's Office ignoring a court decision dictating why consideration outside the 90-day period is illegal.

The rudimentary question that seems to have been missed completely by senators is the basis of authority. Isn't it that the appropriate authority rests on the court-adjudicated Maya Kara lawsuit? Logically, the decision should have been premised on the court ruling, true? Since when is a differing and questionable legal opinion capable of trumping a court decision? It illustrates that the Senate decision was done out of political expediency beyond court-adjudicated authority.

Furthermore, it illustrates the shallowness of a decision where half-cocked lawmakers demonstrate lack of understanding of the concept of a republican form of government. It's simple: The ex-

ecutive proposes, the Legislature disposes, and the Judiciary interprets laws when legal issues arise. In this case, the Senate decided to rely on the AG's view as though such “opinion” legally nullifies a court decision on this matter. Thus the quick hip shot, unaware of the shifting sands below its feet.

This precedent is dangerous in that it illustrates the insecurity of senators veering off legal precedents set by the court. Are we to assume that court decisions are subject to further re-adjudication by the AG's Office? While I understand issues subject to litigation under American jurisprudence, does this include acquiring powers solely reserved for the judicial branch of our government? Must we now ask high schools to rewrite civic lessons on this issue to venture including that the AG's office has legal capacity to re-adjudicate court-issued decisions?

Had the Senate given prominence to legal advice issued by its counsel, this issue would have been correctly placed where it belongs. Its decision did nothing but open up a can of worms. How easily they embraced the silent message: “I am brave enough to be a coward and hide behind breaching legal and intellectual integrity.” And you're supposed to be lawmakers and violators at the same time? Where did you learn to embrace servility to compromising what's legally right? Is your action a microcosm of the impending Fitial trial in your chamber?

Obviously, senators have seen fit to parrot what Fitial said regarding the original opinion issued by the former AG as illegal and unenforceable per a second legal opinion of his new AG.

What would Fitial do if another AG comes along and further decides on a hybrid of both opinions? Would he embrace it? Nothing can be further from the truth! Senators must drop anchor and learn the basis of legal authority. Humiliating!

■ ■ ■

Guns vs abortion

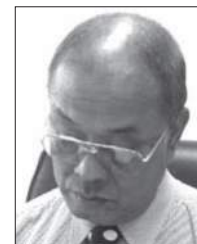
President Obama wants stricter gun control to save lives, but his policy to kill more than half-a-million babies per year using scalpel and scrapers seems fine. It's a tale of a moral decay in the national conscience.

On a collective basis, can Obama shred the second amendment, which says that the citizens' rights to own guns cannot be “infringed” even by the U.S. Congress? So where would both branches

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



secure its legal or constitutional authority?

Then came Sandra Fluke who outdid herself on MSNBC by saying that those who disagree with contraception are opposed to health insurance coverage for leukemia. It's a false comparison in that one deals with “choice” to have or not have sex, the other a life-threatening disease requiring prohibitively expensive treatment and most decidedly does not result from a decision about how to conduct one's romantic relationship.

National columnist Katie Hicks noted that Fluke attended Georgetown Law School, but it's not clear that she's particularly skilled at her craft: she's not making a terribly logical argument, and it's based on a false comparison anyway. Hicks added that we're all aware of the faith community's reasoning for its position on the matter—including that of secular but nonetheless faith-infused businesses such as Hobby Lobby—which is rooted more in moral teachings than the basic proceedings of logic. But honestly, even if I weren't on the opposite side of the morality aisle from Fluke, I would find her argument severely lacking.

Obama wants to clear the national backyard of Americans but ignores that his hometown of Chicago is the Capital Murder of the USA. Too, statistics on Chicago crime sufficiently indicate that it's African-Americans killing African-Americans.

Sir, the difference in ideology doesn't alter the fact that it's a matter of personal responsibility and accountability and your campaign style exploitation of the emotion of the moment is nothing more than polished hypocrisy. Start by telling your Hollywood buddies to end violent programs sold on DVDs and TV. And take a pit stop to review whether you or Congress has any authority at all to “infringe” on the natural rights of citizens.

AUDACITY

From Page 10

suggests that he has reached a plea agreement with prosecutors covering these alleged wrongdoing from 2005 through mid-2012.

Sandi Jackson's attorneys said Friday that she has reached such

a deal with prosecutors, and will plead guilty to a separate charge that she committed tax fraud for calendar years 2006 through 2011.

If and when a federal court accepts plea deals, we'll learn whether either Jackson, or both, is prison-bound. We'll learn, that is, just how blindingly darkness has fallen on two people who, fair to say, have disappointed admirers by the millions.

Some of those onetime admirers are moving on, voting on candi-

dates who seek to replace Jesse Jackson in the House, or adjusting to a new alderman in the Chicago ward that Sandi Jackson represented.

And the rest of us, who don't live in the two Jacksons' former realm?

We're left to murmur clichés about the disappointment that is.

And about the Jacksonian accomplishments that could have been.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 80

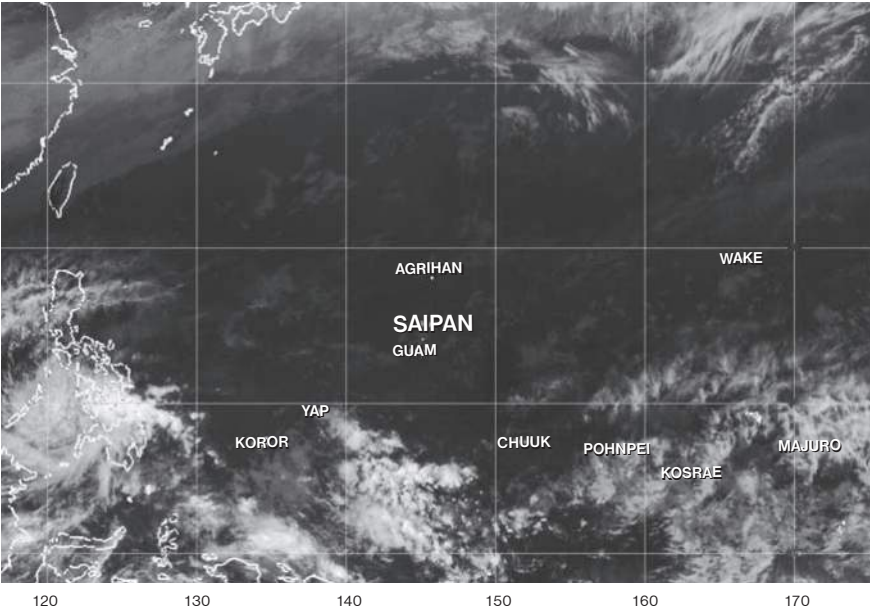
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 39
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 22
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 28
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 29
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 38
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 42
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 23
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 31
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 40 ▼ 28

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N177E to just north of Wake Island at 20N167E to end east of the Marianas near 15N150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 180 miles northwest of this feature. A surface trough runs southward from 9N141E to EQ142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap and Koror south of a line from 10N140E to 6N150E. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 2N130E to EQ138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found well south of Koror south between 3N and the equator from 130E to 140E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers within 210 miles of a line from 7N158E to 3N172E to 3N180. This area includes Kosrae but mainly south of the Marshall Islands.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:38 PM	2:02 AM
Thursday	2:28 PM	2:49 AM
Friday	3:18 PM	3:35 AM
Saturday	4:09 PM	4:20 AM
Sunday	5:01 PM	5:03 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Burger King apologizes after Twitter hacking

By JOSHUA FREED
and CANDICE CHOI
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Somebody hacked Burger King's Twitter account on Monday, posting obscene messages and changing its profile picture to a McDonald's logo.

The tweets stopped after a little more than an hour, and Burger King said it had reached out to Twitter to suspend the account. A Twitter spokesman did not immediately respond to a phone message left on Monday.

Late Monday, Burger King tweeted: "Interesting day here at BURGER KING, but we're back! Welcome to our new followers. Hope you all stick around!"

Burger King, which usually tweets several times a week, typically does so to promote sales on chicken sandwiches, or to ask questions such as how many bites it takes to eat a chicken nugget.

But just after noon EST on Monday, someone tweeted via Burger King's account, "We just got sold to McDonalds!" They also changed the icon to rival McDonald Corp.'s golden arches and the account's back-



This frame grab taken Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, shows what appears to be Burger King's Twitter account after it was apparently hacked. Starting just after noon Eastern time on Monday, the fast-food company's Twitter picture was changed to a McDonald's logo, and the account tweeted that it had been sold to rival McDonald's.

ground picture to McDonald's new Fish McBites.

About 55 tweets and retweets followed over the next hour and a quarter, including some that contained racial epithets, references to drug use and obscenities. The account tweeted: "if I catch you at a wendys, we're fightin!"

Monday's appropriation of Burger King's Twitter account was a relatively mild example of cybersecurity problems, which are causing increasing concern in Washington and for industry. Media outlets including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post

have all said this year that their computer systems were breached, while several NBC websites were briefly hacked in November. White House officials and some lawmakers are pursuing legislation that would make it easier for the government and industry to share information on how to de-

fend against hacking.

Burger King didn't know who hacked the account, and no other social media accounts were affected, said Bryson Thornton, a spokesman for Miami-based Burger King Worldwide Inc. Its social media team and an outside agency manage the Twitter

account, but Thornton declined to say how many people knew the account's password. Late Sunday, Thornton issued an apology to the company's Twitter followers.

"Earlier today, our official BK Twitter Account was compromised by unauthorized users," Thornton said in a statement. "Upon learning of this incident, our social media teams immediately began working with Twitter security administrators to suspend the compromised account until we could reestablish our brand's official Twitter page. We apologize to our loyal fans and followers, whom might have received unauthorized tweets from our account. We are pleased to announce that the account is now active again."

Twitter acknowledged on Feb. 1 that cyber attackers may have stolen user names and passwords of 250,000 users. It said at the time that it notified users of the breach.

Competitors were sympathetic. McDonald's responded on Twitter that it empathized with its Burger King counterparts. "Rest assured, we had nothing to do with the hacking."

New Zealand plans logo-free cigarette packs

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Strict against smoking already, New Zealand plans to make tobacco companies remove their logos from cigarette packs but will wait until a challenge to Australian legislation is resolved.

The packaging law "will remove the last remaining vestige of glamor from these deadly products," Associate Minister of Health Tariana Turia said in announcing the plan Tuesday.

New Zealand already has increased cigarette taxes and makes retailers hide packs below the counter. The new legislation would be similar to

an Australian law that took effect in December and replaced logos on packs with graphic warnings including cancer-riddled mouths.

The proposed law could be introduced in Parliament later this year to take effect when the trade case over Australia's law plays out—next year at the earliest.

Tobacco companies lost a legal challenge in Australia's highest court last year, but the World Trade Organization has agreed to hear a complaint about it from several tobacco-growing countries led by the Ukraine.

The Ukraine, Zimbabwe,

Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Indonesia argued that governments should pursue health policies "without unnecessarily restricting international trade and without nullifying intellectual property rights."

New Zealand, Norway and Uruguay have lined up behind Australia in the WTO case. Uruguay told the trade body it couldn't remain silent about "the most serious pandemic confronting humanity."

Turia said the New Zealand government wants to minimize its legal exposure by waiting until the outcome of the Australian

challenge. Even so, she said, the government is planning to set aside up to 6 million New Zealand dollars (\$5.1 million) to defend against possible lawsuits from the "very litigious" tobacco companies.

Steve Rush, the New Zealand general manager of British American Tobacco, said in a statement Tuesday that the company is exploring its legal options.

"We expect to see numerous repercussions as a result of the government ignoring several international agreements as well as setting a dangerous precedent for other industries," he said.

Amazon fires German security firm

BERLIN (AP)—Online retailer Amazon reacted to mounting criticism Monday by firing a security company named in a German television documentary about alleged mistreatment of foreign temporary workers.

An Amazon spokeswoman in Germany said the company had ended its relationship with Hensel European Security Services "with immediate effect."

"Amazon has a zero tolerance limit for discrimination and intimidation and expects the same of other companies we work with," spokeswoman Ulrike Stoecker said in an email to The Associated Press.

A documentary shown on German public television channel ARD last week showed staff of the security company—whose initials spell out the surname of Adolf Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess—wearing clothes linked to Germany's neo-Nazi scene. It also interviewed people claiming they were intimidated by the security guards, who were stationed at a holiday camp where the temporary staff were housed.

The company, hired by one of Amazon's subcontractors,

last week denied it supported far-right opinions. "We employ Christians, Muslims and Buddhists," the company said in a statement Friday. "The allegations of far-right sympathies can't be reconciled with that."

The ARD documentary alleged a broader climate of intimidation at Amazon's seven logistics centers in Germany, including threats of random staff searches, constant pressure to perform better and firing of workers who complained.

The ARD report echoes allegations by German union Verdi, which says Amazon's temporary workers face particular difficulties because many have been brought in from other European countries and don't understand that they are protected by Germany's stringent labor laws.

The German government said the Federal Labor Agency is investigating an Amazon subcontractor, which it didn't name, in the wake of the documentary.

"We expect the results of the special investigation during the course of the week," Labor Ministry spokeswoman Christina Wendt told reporters Monday.

Delta employees earn \$372M in profit sharing for 2012 performance

Delta Air Lines paid on Feb. 14 \$372 million in earned profit sharing as part of the company's commitment to recognize its 80,000 employees for their crucial role in achieving financial and operational goals in 2012. Employees' individual payouts will equal 6.67 percent of their eligible 2012 earnings.

"This year's profit sharing payment is a reflection of the

hard work and dedication Delta people have shown in delivering what our customers have come to expect—great operations and service," said Delta CEO Richard Anderson.

"Profit sharing is not only a demonstration of appreciation for employees' hard work in 2012, it's an investment in improving our

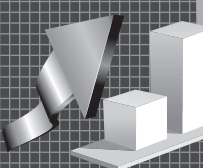
customer experience on Delta now and in the future."

Along with base pay, Delta's additional compensation elements like the Delta Annual Profit Sharing Plan and "Shared Rewards" program, which pays monthly bonuses for meeting corporate operational goals, are designed to allow employees to

earn more when the company performs well. In 2012, Delta employees earned \$91 million in "Shared Rewards," which, combined with profit sharing, results in a total of \$463 million in performance pay for 2012. The company has paid out more than \$1.1 billion in profit sharing and "Shared Rewards" over the past three years. **(Delta Air Lines)**

DELTA

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,981.76	1,519.79	3,192.03
+8.37	-1.59	-6.63
+0.06%	-0.10%	-0.21%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	0.9688	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7551
British Pound	0.6463	Indian Rupee	54.2038
Canadian Dollar	1.0109	Indonesian Rupiah	9,683.00
Chinese Yuan	6.2475	Japanese Yen	93.6710
Euro	0.7491	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0985
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1848
		Philippine Peso	40.6400
		Singapore Dollar	1.2381
		South Korean Won	1,081.35
		Swiss Franc	0.9234
		Taiwan Dollar	29.6070
		Thailand Baht	29.9000

Nation

Climate contradiction: Less snow, more blizzards

WASHINGTON (AP)—With scant snowfall and barren ski slopes in parts of the Midwest and Northeast the past couple of years, some scientists have pointed to global warming as the culprit.

Then when a whopper of a blizzard smacked the Northeast with more than 2 feet of snow in some places earlier this month, some of the same people again blamed global warming.

How can that be? It's been a joke among skeptics, pointing to what seems to be a brazen contradiction.

But the answer lies in atmospheric physics. A warmer atmosphere can hold, and dump, more moisture, snow experts say. And two soon-to-be-published studies demonstrate how there can be more giant blizzards yet less snow overall each year. Projections are that that's likely to continue with man-made global warming.

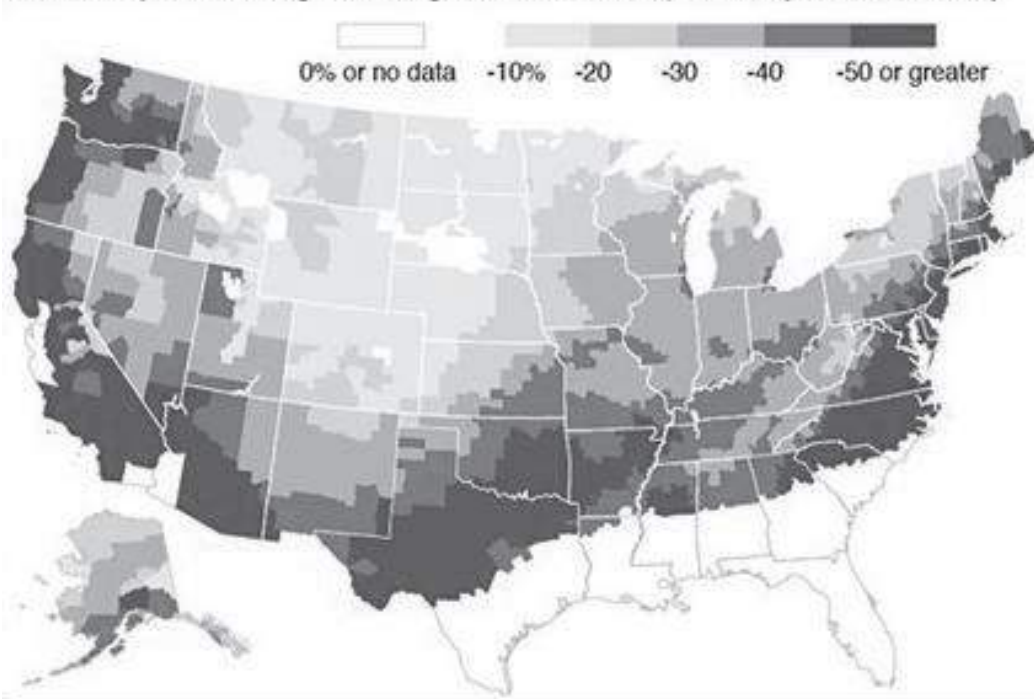
Consider:

■ The United States has been walloped by twice as many of the most extreme snowstorms in the past 50 years than in the previous 60 years, according to an upcoming study on extreme weather by leading federal and university climate scientists.

Longterm snow dropoff predicted for the U.S.

Annual snowfall is likely to greatly decrease by the end of this century if carbon dioxide emissions continue to grow at a modest rate.

Simulated percent change in average annual snowfall, present day vs. end of century



SOURCE: NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

AP

This also fits with a dramatic upward trend in extreme winter precipitation—both rain and snow—in the Northeastern U.S. charted by the National Climatic Data Center.

■ Yet the Global Snow Lab

at Rutgers University says that spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere has shrunk on average by 1 million square miles in the last 45 years.

■ And an upcoming study in the *Journal of Climate* says

computer models predict annual global snowfall to shrink by more than a foot in the next 50 years. The study's author said most people live in parts of the United States that are likely to see annual snowfall drop be-

tween 30 and 70 percent by the end of the century.

"Shorter snow season, less snow overall, but the occasional knockout punch," Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer said. "That's the new world we live in."

Ten climate scientists say the idea of less snow and more blizzards makes sense: A warmer world is likely to decrease the overall amount of snow falling each year and shrink snow season. But when it is cold enough for a snowstorm to hit, the slightly warmer air is often carrying more moisture, producing potentially historic blizzards.

"Strong snowstorms thrive on the ragged edge of temperature—warm enough for the air to hold lots of moisture, meaning lots of precipitation, but just cold enough for it to fall as snow," said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center. "Increasingly, it seems that we're on that ragged edge."

Just look at the last few

years in the Northeast. Or take Chicago, which until late January had 335 days without more than an inch of snow. Both have been hit with historic storms in recent years.

Scientists won't blame a specific event or even a specific seasonal change on global warming without doing intricate and time-consuming studies. And they say they are just now getting a better picture of the complex intersection of man-made climate change and extreme snowfall.

But when Serreze, Oppenheimer and others look at the last few years of less snow overall, punctuated by big storms, they say this is what they are expecting in the future.

"It fits the pattern that we expect to unfold," Oppenheimer said.

The world is warming so precipitation that would normally fall as snow in the future will likely fall as rain once it gets above the freezing point, said Princeton researcher Sarah Kapnick.

US Coast Guard: Cause of cruise ship fire was a leak

ATLANTA (AP)—A leak in a fuel oil return line caused the engine-room fire that disabled a Carnival cruise ship at sea, leaving 4,200 people without power or working toilets for five days, a Coast Guard official said Monday.

Cmdr. Teresa Hatfield addressed the finding in a conference call with reporters and estimated that the investigation of the disabled ship, the Carnival Triumph, would take six months.

Hatfield said the Bahamas—where the ship is registered, or flagged—is leading the investigation, with the Coast Guard and National Transportation Safety Board representing U.S. interests in the probe. The vessel was in international waters at the time of the incident.

She said investigators have been with the ship since it arrived Thursday in Mobile. Since then, she said, interviews have been conducted with passengers and crew and forensic analysis has been performed on the ship.

She said the crew responded appropriately to the fire. "They did a very good job," she said.

In an email after Monday's conference call, Coast Guard

spokesman Carlos Diaz described the oil return line that leaked as stretching from the ship's No. 6 engine to the fuel tank.

A Carnival Cruise Lines spokesman said in an email Monday that the company agrees with the Coast Guard's findings about the fire source.

Andrew Coggins, a former Navy commander who was a chief engineer and is now a professor at Pace University in New York and an expert on the cruise industry, said the fire could potentially have been serious.

"The problem is the oil's under pressure," he said. "What happens in the case of a fuel oil leak where you have a fire like that is it leaks in such a way that it sprays out in a mist. In the engine room you have many hot surfaces, so once the mist hits a hot surface it will flash into flame."

If the crew hadn't reacted quickly and the fire suppression system hadn't worked properly, he said, "the fire from the engine room would have eventually burned through to other parts of the ship." Engine room fires that can't be suppressed generally result in the loss of the entire ship, he said.

Kids' suspensions renew debate over zero tolerance

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Waiting in line for the bus, a Pennsylvania kindergartener tells her pals she's going to shoot them with a Hello Kitty toy that makes soap bubbles. In Maryland, a 6-year-old boy pretends his fingers are a gun during a playground game of cops and robbers. In Massachusetts, a 5-year-old boy attending an after-school program makes a gun out of Legos and points it at other students while "simulating the sound of gunfire," as one school official put it.

Kids with active imaginations? Or potential threats to school safety?

Some school officials are taking the latter view, suspending or threatening to suspend small children over behavior their parents consider perfectly normal and age-appropriate—even now, with schools in a state of heightened sensitivity following the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in December.

The extent to which the New-



In this Feb. 10, 2013 photo, Kelly Guarna's 5-year-old daughter Madison pose for a portrait in Mount Carmel, Pa.

town, Conn., shooting might influence educators' disciplinary decisions is unclear. But parents contend administrators are projecting adult fears onto children who know little about the massacre of 20 first-graders and six educators, and who certainly pose no threat to anyone.

"It's horrible what they're doing to these kids," said Kelly Guarna, whose 5-year-old daughter, Madison, was suspended by

Mount Carmel Area School District in eastern Pennsylvania last month for making a "terroristic threat" with the bubble gun. "They're treating them as mini-adults, making them grow up too fast, and robbing them of their imaginations."

Mary Czajkowski, superintendent of Barnstable Public Schools in Hyannis, Mass., acknowledged that Sandy Hook has teachers and parents on edge. But she defend-

ed Hyannis West Elementary School's warning to a 5-year-old boy who chased his classmates with a gun he'd made from plastic building blocks, saying the student didn't listen to the teacher when she told him repeatedly to stop.

The school told his mother if it happened again, he'd face a two-week suspension. "Given the heightened awareness and sensitivity, we must do all that we can to ensure that all students and adults both remain safe and feel safe in schools," Czajkowski said in a statement. "To dismiss or overlook an incident that results in any member of our school community feeling unsafe or threatened would be irresponsible and negligent."

The boy's mother, Sheila Cruz-Cardosa, said school officials are responding irrationally in the wake of Sandy Hook. She said they should be concentrating on "high school kids or kids who are more of a threat, not an innocent 5-year-old who's playing with Legos."

ACROSS THE NATION

Man leaves hospital after lottery-fueled blast

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—One of two south-central Kansas brothers whose drug-fueled celebration of a winning \$75,000 in the lottery resulted in an explosion in their duplex has been

released from a hospital. The Wichita man suffered second-degree burns to his hands, arms and chest Friday night after he refueled butane torches that he and his brother planned to use to smoke drugs. A woman at Via Christi St. Francis Hospital

on Monday said the burn victim had been released, but she didn't have further details. The other brother told police Friday they had purchased marijuana and methamphetamine to celebrate their lottery win. He was arrested, but details about charges were not

available Monday because of the President's Day holiday.

Calif scholar compiles Mien-English dictionary

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A California missionary and linguist has compiled a com-

prehensive dictionary for the Mien language, a fast-fading idiom spoken by thousands of refugees from Laos who have resettled in cities throughout the U.S. Herbert Purnell spent 26 years compiling the Mien-English dictionary, and once lost all his notes to a fire

only to realize that two of his Mien consultants had preserved drafts. The Mien community turned out to a south Sacramento event over the weekend to buy the dictionary and have the 78-year-old Purnell sign it, *The Sacramento Bee* reported on Monday.

Asia

Karzai bans Afghan forces from seeking airstrikes

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Critics expressed worries Monday that a presidential order barring Afghan security forces from requesting international airstrikes during operations in residential areas could hobble government troops even as they prepare to take over full responsibility for security in the country from international forces.

Underscoring the troops' dependence on warplanes and helicopters, the U.S.-led coalition said Monday that an airstrike last week killed an Afghan soldier-turned-insurgent who was feted by the Taliban for killing an American soldier during an insider attack last year.

President Hamid Karzai officially issued the order on Monday, two days after promising to do so amid anger over a NATO airstrike requested by the national intelligence service that local officials said killed at least 10 civilians and four insurgents.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, said he believes the American-led NATO coalition can operate effectively despite the ban.

Afghans currently lead about 90 percent of military operations nationwide and will fully take charge in the spring, a key step in the plan to withdraw U.S. and other foreign combat forces by the end of 2014. However, they remain heavily dependent on the coalition for air support and medical evacuations in areas where the Taliban

and other militants live among the population and often enjoy local support.

The ban also runs counter to Afghan requests for NATO to supply their security forces with aircraft capable of carrying out airstrikes. The Afghan military has repeatedly implored the United States for jet fighters, such as F-16s, tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons.

Some analysts said the ban on airstrikes against residential areas would limit the Afghan forces' effectiveness and could prompt the savvy Taliban to use it by increasingly taking shelter among civilians in cities and villages.

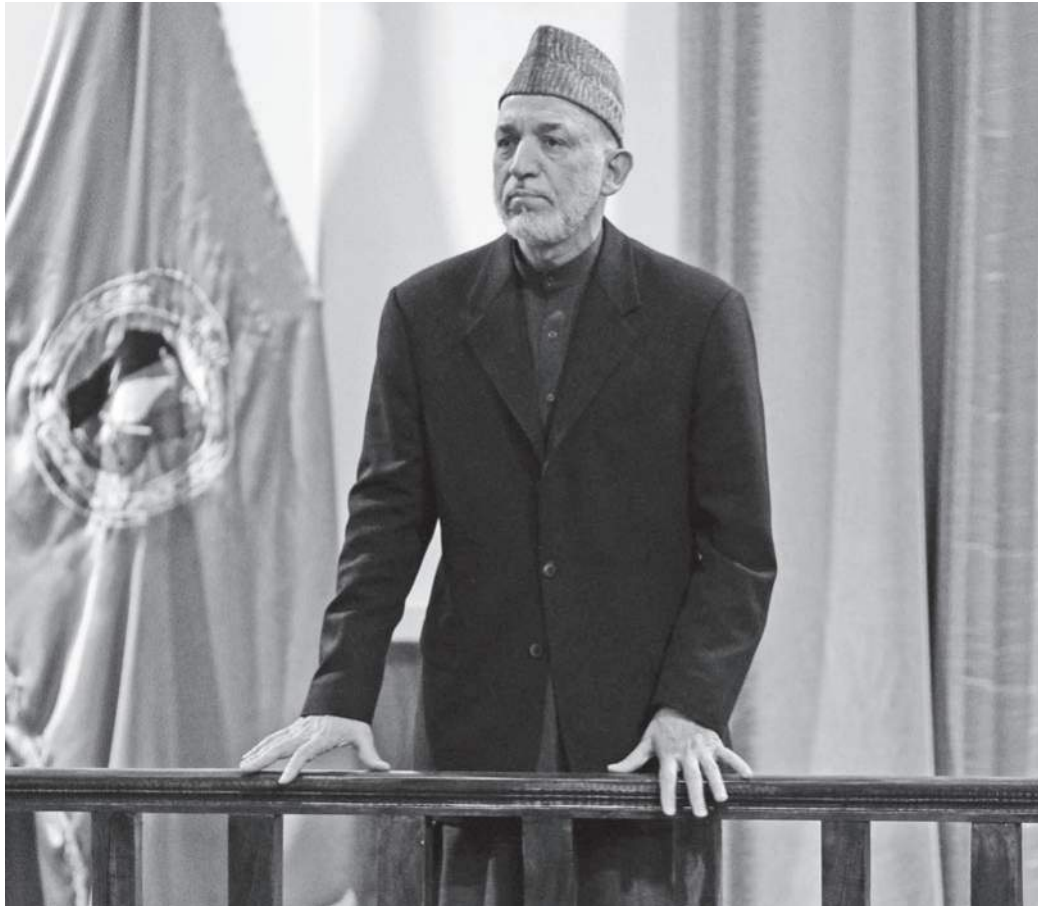
"We don't have the ability to support our forces on the ground," said former Afghan Gen. Amrullah Aman.

"These insurgents are using Afghan houses as bunkers and innocent children are being killed," he added. "The insurgents will hear that the decree has been issued and feel safe."

The death of civilians during military operations, particularly in airstrikes, has been among a major source of acrimony between Karzai's government and foreign forces.

The presidential order was directed at the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the National Directorate of Security.

"During your operations, don't call for air support from international forces during operations on residential areas," the decree said. It did not provide more details.



In this Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013 file photo, Afghan President Hamid Karzai addresses military officers in Kabul, Afghanistan. Karzai issued an order Monday, Feb. 18, barring Afghan security forces from requesting international airstrikes during operations in residential areas.

The U.S.-led military coalition said last June that it would only use airstrikes as a self-defense weapon of last resort for troops and would avoid hitting structures that could house civilians. That followed a bombardment that killed 18 civilians celebrating a wedding in eastern Logar province, which drew an apology from the American commander.

Tensions rose again earlier this month when an airstrike hit two neighboring houses, killing five children, four women and one man in one and four insurgents in another in northeastern Kunar province, according to local officials.

Dunford met with Karzai and expressed "his personal condolences for any civilians who

may have died or been injured as a result of the operation."

But the Afghan leader, who is serving his last term and is due to step down after elections in 2014, said he was outraged when the US commander told him that the NDS, Afghanistan's intelligence agency, had requested last week's strike in Kunar.

On Sunday, Dunford told reporters that Karzai's decision was in line with a tactical directive issued last year by his predecessor, Marine Gen. John Allen. The coalition can still carry out airstrikes on its own accord.

"There are other ways we can support our Afghan partners other than air ordnance," Dunford said without elaborating.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said 83 civilians were killed and 46 wounded in aerial attacks by international military forces in the first half of 2012. That figure was down 23 percent from the same period of 2011—the deadliest year on record for civilians in the Afghan war. It said two-thirds of the casualties last year were women and children and insurgents were responsible for the overwhelming majority of the deaths.

Former Gen. Sayed Hussain Anwari said the airstrike successes aren't worth the deaths of innocent Afghans.

"Unfortunately there's no clear front line in the fight against the Taliban. It's a guerrilla war," said Anwari, also an ex-governor of Kabul and Herat provinces. "But also civilian casualties are unacceptable for everybody."

Earlier Monday, the U.S.-led coalition said that a former Afghan soldier and an accomplice blamed in the death of an American soldier had been killed last Wednesday in an airstrike in Kunar province's Gha-ziabad district.

ASIA BRIEFS

Departing South Korean leader warns North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's outgoing president warns North Korea has pushed itself further into a corner with its recent nuclear test. President Lee Myung-bak said Tuesday in his farewell address that North Korea will only face international sanctions and isolation if it hangs on to its nuclear and missile programs. South Korea has pressed for tighter U.N. sanctions on North Korea since Pyongyang conducted its third nuclear test last week. North Korea defends the underground blast as an act of deterrence against U.S. hostility.

32 Myanmar nationals rescued at sea off Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's navy says it has rescued 32 Myanmar nationals whose wooden vessel began sinking while making a perilous journey to Australia. A navy statement says the rescue was made about 250 nautical miles off the is-

land's eastern coast on Saturday. Those rescued are being treated for acute dehydration. The group comprising 31 adult males and a boy had been at sea without food for 21 days when the navy rescued them after being informed by a local fishing boat.

Passenger plane makes emergency landing in China

BEIJING (AP)—An official from a northeastern Chinese airport says an Airbus A320 on a domestic flight made an emergency landing because of a mechanical fault. The official from Taiping Airport in Harbin city confirmed Tuesday that China Southern Airlines flight CZ 3624 headed for the southern city of Guangzhou returned to Harbin after takeoff Monday and made an emergency landing. She declined to specify the mechanical fault and would only give her surname, Bai. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the housing on the plane's left engine had fallen off, citing a statement from the airline.

Pakistani clerics to boycott peace conference

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani clerics upset with anti-Taliban comments coming out of Afghanistan said Monday they will boycott a conference of religious leaders being held to denounce violence and press for a peaceful end to the 11-year-old Afghan war.

The head of the Pakistani clerics, Mufti Abu Huraira Mohiuddin sent a letter to his Afghan counterpart on Sunday announcing the move. In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, Mohiuddin accused some Afghan clerics of using "unsavory language" against the Taliban and said the conference was shaping

up to be a one-sided attack on the Taliban rather than a conference to press for peace.

The letter appeared to put an end to an initiative that began last November when Kabul and Islamabad announced the plan to hold a peace conference.

The ambitious initiative called for 500 clerics from Afghanistan and Pakistan to gather in Kabul in March to present a united front opposing violence, denouncing suicide bombings and urging all sides in the protracted conflict to pursue peace. At the time, the plan was touted as a sign of improving relations between Kabul and Islamabad. But the latest dispute highlights the difficulty of

getting the squabbling neighbors to sit together. Still, Pakistan is seen as key to any peace agreement with Taliban insurgents ahead of the 2014 withdrawal of NATO and U.S. troops from Afghanistan, and it's believed that Islamabad is the best hope of getting the Taliban to enter into serious negotiations.

The Taliban were given office space in Persian Gulf state of Qatar last year when the U.S. and Taliban opened secret talks. But those discussions stalled after the U.S. refused to release five Taliban from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Yet the Taliban have participated in at least two international

conferences and U.S. and European officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the fragility of the talks, say the Taliban are in touch with representatives of 30 to 40 countries. The proliferation of interlocutors has angered Afghan President Hamid Karzai who wants all peace negotiations channeled through his government even though the Taliban are steadfastly refusing to talk to his government.

Some members of the Afghan High Peace Council had hoped that 500 clerics from Afghanistan and Pakistan would have had the clout to propel the Taliban into direct talks with the government.

Maldives court issues 2nd warrant for ex-president

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Maldives police said they have asked for help from the Foreign Ministry in arresting the country's former president, who has taken refuge inside the Indian embassy.

A court issued a second arrest warrant for Mohamed Nasheed to face charges he illegally ordered the detention of a senior judge while president, police

spokesman Hasan Haneef said Monday. The judge's detention led to Nasheed's ouster from power last year.

Nasheed took refuge inside the Indian embassy last Wednesday, when the court issued an earlier arrest warrant against him for failing to appear to face the charges. Nasheed's party has said his life is under threat.

The Indian government has

said it will deal with Nasheed on a day-to-day basis.

Nasheed says the charges are politically motivated to disqualify him from running in a presidential election in September. Party spokesman Abdul Gaffoor said Nasheed was displeased with the judges selected for the hearing and would face the court if he is given a fair trial.

Nasheed became the Mal-

dives' first democratically elected president in 2008, ending a 30-year autocracy. He resigned last year after losing the support of the military and police during weeks of public protests over the judge's detention. His deputy, Mohammed Waheed Hassan, succeeded him.

An inquiry commission last year dismissed Nasheed's claim that he was ousted in a coup.

World

Israeli Ethiopian birth control ignites debate

JERUSALEM (AP)—Accusations that Israel deliberately tried to curb birth rates among Ethiopian immigrants have reopened a debate over discrimination against the group—highlighting the state's uneasy relationship with a community that has yet to fully settle into the Israeli mainstream. Women's activists and a series of media reports contend that Ethiopian women who immigrated to Israel over the past two decades were coerced into taking a controversial birth control drug without being properly informed of its side effects or being offered alternative contraceptives.

While the allegations have been strongly denied by the government, it remains unclear why so many Ethiopian women were receiving Depo-Provera, a long-acting birth control injection that is rarely prescribed to other Israelis.

Israel's Health Ministry has denied any wrongdoing and ruled out an investigation. Nonetheless, last month it ordered the country's HMOs to stop prescribing the drug to Ethiopians unless they are fully aware of the potential side effects, which can include decreased bone mineral density and difficulty getting pregnant.



In this Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2013 photo, an Ethiopian Israeli, who asked not to be identified, is seen during an interview with The Associated Press in Jerusalem.

for up to two years after the injections stop.

The controversy has shined a fresh light on the Ethiopian community and its place in

modern Israel. Believed to be descendants of the lost Israelite tribe of Dan, Ethiopian Jews spent millennia isolated from the rest of the Jewish world.

Israel began rescuing groups of Ethiopian Jews from war and famine in clandestine operations in the 1980s, and larger numbers followed in the 1990s.

Today, some 120,000 people of Ethiopian descent live in Israel. Yet two decades after first arriving, Israel's Ethiopian population continues to struggle. Many work in low-paying menial jobs as security guards and cleaners, and roughly 41 percent of Ethiopian families live in poverty.

While the younger genera-

tion has made some gains, it is still struggling compared to other Israelis and many say they still face discrimination. The latest birth control controversy has taken these grievances to new heights.

"This story reeks of racism," said Itzik Dasa, the head of Tebeka, an Ethiopian legal aid group that along with five other rights organizations is collecting testimonies from dozens of Ethiopian women, with the aim of taking the matter to court.

Dasa doesn't think Israel necessarily imposed a policy aimed at reducing birth rates among Ethiopian women, but rather that underlying racist sentiment allowed the matter to perpetuate unchecked. Shlomo Molla, a former Israeli lawmaker and Ethiopian immigrant, said he believes the Health Ministry continued to give the women the injections, which were first administered in Ethiopian transit camps, once they arrived in Israel out of negligence.

"It was a failure of the Health Ministry. It shouldn't have given the women what they received in Ethiopia automatically," he said.

Depo-Provera has been used under controversial circumstances in the past. Testing and use was limited almost exclusively to women in developing countries and poor women in the United States, leading to charges that the test subjects were coerced or ill-informed.

Kurdish refugees have mixed feelings about Syria

DOMIZ REFUGEE CAMP, Iraq (AP)—Syrian Kurds who fled their country's civil war have mixed feelings about a future without Bashar Assad: They hope to win a measure of autonomy after the fall of the regime, but fear chaos and the rise of Islamists could instead make their lives worse.

More than 81,000 Syrian Kurds have found refuge in northern Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region in recent months and hundreds more arrive every day. Few seem in a rush to go home.

The Kurdistan Regional Government allows fellow Kurds from Syria to work and move freely in the three prov-

inces of northern Iraq it controls. Some 30,000 refugees still live in a camp of tents and cinder-block shacks near the Syrian border, while the rest have found jobs and homes in towns across the autonomous region, some staying with relatives.

Even those struggling with the hardships of camp life say they prefer to stay in Iraq after the fall of the regime, until they have a better idea how Islamists and other groups in the Sunni Arab-dominated Syrian opposition will deal with Kurds, Syria's largest ethnic minority.

"If the Muslim Brotherhood takes over and there are problems in the future, we want to

stay here," said Faroush Fattah, a 28-year-old laborer from the northeastern Syrian town of Qamishli who arrived in the Domiz camp three months ago.

The refugees' ambivalence about the upheaval in Syria is shared by Iraqi Kurdish leaders, who have carved out an increasingly prosperous quasi-state in the autonomous region, aided by an oil-fueled economic boom. Kurdish autonomy in post-Assad Syria, similar to the Iraqi model, could strengthen long-standing Kurdish demands for an independent homeland for the more than 25 million Kurds in parts of Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq.

But the emergence of yet

another autonomous Kurdish region would likely spook Turkey, a regional power that is key to plans by Iraq's Kurds to export their oil riches directly, if necessary without permission from the central Iraqi government.

Turkey is home to an estimated 15 million Kurds, some with self-rule aspirations, and has been battling Kurdish insurgents for nearly three decades. Adding to Turkey's concerns, the dominant Kurdish faction in Syria, the Democratic Union Party, or PYD, is seen as an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, the leader of the armed rebellion in Turkey.

Germany: Tighter controls needed on meat products

BERLIN (AP)—German officials on Monday vowed tighter controls on meat products and stronger penalties for companies that violate food-labeling rules as more items marketed as "all beef" were pulled from supermarket shelves after testing positive for horse meat.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, is one of several countries across the continent investigating the improper use of horsemeat and mislabeling of meat products in a still-unfolding scandal.

Consumer Protection Minister Ilse Aigner and her state counterparts announced a 10-point plan seeking to allay Germans' fears after five national supermarkets recalled lasagna, chili, tortellini and goulash—all with traces of horse meat. Most recently, German discount supermarket Lidl on Monday said it had recalled Combino brand "Beef Tortelloni," sold at its stores in Austria, after tests showed it contained horse meat.

Aigner said Germany will

step up testing and look for any meat not clearly noted on the label—not just horse. "I can't say this is the end," she told reporters. "We have to count on other cases being discovered."

In addition to implementing a European Union action plan on testing meat products, some of Germany's other plans include making sure consumers are more quickly informed as soon as a company has detected that its product may be mislabeled, and facilitating better information flow between state and fed-

eral agencies. Horse meat has turned up across Europe in frozen supermarket meals such as burgers and lasagna, as well as in beef pasta sauce, on restaurant menus, in school lunches and in hospital meals.

Millions of products were pulled from store shelves in Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway after the scandal broke, and supermarkets and food suppliers were told to test processed beef products for horse DNA.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ailing Chavez returns to Venezuela from Cuba

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez returned to Venezuela on Monday after more than two months of treatment in Cuba following cancer surgery, his government said, triggering street celebrations by supporters who welcomed him home while he remained out of sight at Caracas' military hospital. Chavez's return was announced in a series of three messages on his Twitter account, the first of them reading: "We've arrived once again in our Venezuelan homeland. Thank you, my God!! Thank you, beloved nation!! We will continue our treatment here." They were the first messages to appear on Chavez's Twitter account since Nov. 1.

Pro-Cuba protesters halt dissident's Brazil event

FEIRA DE SANTANA, Brazil (AP)—Boisterous protesters backing the Cuban government blocked the Monday screening of a documentary featuring Cuba's best-known dissident, the blogger Yoani Sanchez, who was in attendance after being allowed to leave the communist island for the first time in nearly a decade. Small groups of protesters met Sanchez when she arrived earlier Monday at two airports in Brazil's northeast. They called her a "mercenary" who was being financed by the CIA and tossed photocopied U.S. dollar bills her way. One protester got close enough to pull her hair. Sanchez was also met by supporters and throughout the day in Tweets and a blog posting expressed her joy at being in Brazil, the first stop on her 80-day tour of about a dozen nations.

Belarus guard get 2-year sentence for teddy bears

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—A Belarusian court has handed out a two-year prison sentence to a border guard who failed to protect the ex-Soviet nation from foreign teddy bears. Belarus Supreme Court said Monday the guard has been convicted of failure to report an intrusion of a light plane that dropped hundreds of teddy bears decked out in parachutes and slogans supporting human rights over the tightly controlled country of 10 million. The court wouldn't give his name or rank.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—The 14-month battle for control of American Airlines came down to two men who got their start there.

When the airline filed for bankruptcy in November 2011, Tom Horton was simultaneously elevated to CEO. But from the minute he reached the top, a number of forces started converging against him. The airline's unions didn't trust him. Those owed money by American questioned his plans.

The strongest opposition, however, soon came from his old friend Doug Parker. The two had worked side-by-side as financial analysts at American's Fort Worth, Texas, headquarters in the 1980s, until Parker moved on to other airlines, eventually becoming CEO of rival US Airways.

Parker had spent the last five years looking to merge with another airline. With American in bankruptcy, he sprang into action.

By the end of the year, the 51-year-old Parker will be at the helm of a combined American and US Airways—the world's largest airline. Horton, also 51, will serve as chairman for about a year and then depart the company he worked at for nearly a quarter century. For his efforts, he will receive \$19.9 million in cash and stock as well as a lifetime of free first-class tickets on American for himself and his wife.

Parker and Horton have spent most of their lives in the airline business. But that's about where the similarities end.

Horton is a buttoned-up guy who loves long runs and starts each morning with a bowl of oatmeal and freshly cut Texas peaches. Parker, on the other hand, is easily the life of a party. He commands a room and fills his conversations with energy.

There was never going to be room for both at the top of American.

This is the story of how two old friends and former protégés of legendary American Airlines CEO Robert Crandall found themselves on opposite ends of what may be the last great airline merger in the U.S. Horton and Parker declined to comment but interviews with executives, union officials, lawyers and others connected to the deal—agreed to late Wednesday—outline how it was filled with tactical negotiations, clandestine meetings and gut-wrenching decisions. The prize: A chance to bring American back to its glory days.

Horton initially was safe in his job.

When American's parent, AMR Corp., filed for bankruptcy five days after Thanksgiving in 2011, it did so from a unique position. It had lost more than \$12 billion during the past decade but still had \$4.1 billion in cash. That meant it didn't need to borrow money to keep operating, and that gave Horton more autonomy and control over the company's fate.

His first task was to get the airline to stop bleeding money. Aircraft leases and vendor agreements were quickly changed. The airline reviewed every part of its revenue and moved to cut labor expenses.

This was not the time to work out a merger, although Wall Street analysts were already speculating.

The official line became: American was open to a merger, but only after it emerged from bankruptcy protection. Horton's preference was for American to remain an independent airline. The unspoken reason was that American wasn't worth as much as executives hoped it would be later.

And that's exactly why Parker want-

ed to move quickly, while he still had the upper hand and could pay significantly less. US Airways hadn't signed new contracts with its unions in years. That was benefiting shareholders. Eventually, Parker would need to pay out large raises which would weaken his position in any merger. Time was of the essence.

In January 2012, Parker decided to shop around his idea for a merger on Wall Street and in Washington.

He wasn't the only one floating the idea of a merger.

Horton was also feeling pressure from American's creditors, who were owed \$29.6 billion. Bankruptcy law gives a company 18 months to exclusively present its own plan to return to profitability. The creditors and judge have to sign off on the plan but typi-

cally sit on the sidelines. Building, creditor representatives talked about the merits of a merger. They didn't like American's plan to stay independent, thinking they could get back more of the money they were owed through a merger.

Horton stood firm, preferring to consider a merger only after American emerged from bankruptcy.

Then came American's unions.

David Bates, who was head of American's pilots' union at the time, was worried that the airline's plan would fail and the company would shortly return to bankruptcy. He also wanted to stop Horton from gutting his members' pay and benefits. So he turned to US Airways for a better deal.

"If we had hope of a better outcome, I needed to move very quickly," Bates said.

Bates and the other union officials. So they flew US Airways.

Pilots will often fly other airlines in uniform and chat with the crew. That couldn't happen on these flights.

"Everybody was told to be invisible, not to talk to anyone," Bates said.

When Parker and Kirby flew to Texas to make their case to the union, there was even a higher level of secrecy. They used a private jet and Bates personally made the 12-mile drive to the meeting site in the union's red Chevrolet Suburban.

Union security guards were stationed around the Hilton Arlington, but when Bates pulled up at the back entrance, he recognized a reporter lurking nearby. He quickly made a U-turn and the meeting was moved to the union's headquarters.

Similar meetings were being held

"He's a great numbers guy," said Thomas Roberts, a partner with Weil, Gotshal & Manges, the law firm that represented American.

In summer, Horton alerted his board that it was time to investigate a merger.

He reached out to Parker and arranged a 6:15 a.m. breakfast on July 19 at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington. Both men had oatmeal. They spoke about sharing financial documents and Horton asked Parker to ratchet down the public push for a merger.

A deal and decision about who would run the new airline was still way off.

Three days later, Horton started to spin the idea of a merger as his own.

He told The Associated Press that the first conversation the two men had about a possible merger took place in September 2011, when Horton was just American's president. They were at an exclusive gathering of top airline executives in Wyoming known as "conquistadores del cielo," or the conquerors of the skies. During a barbecue lunch, Horton approached Parker, saying there could be value in a merger.

"I made that pitch. We nodded heads to one another," Horton had said in July 2012.

On Aug. 31, the airline announced that nondisclosure agreements had been signed and they were considering a merger.

"It does not mean we are merging—it simply means we have agreed to work together to discuss and analyze a potential merger," Parker told employees.

For the next three months, teams of lawyers, accountants and consultants started reviewing each airline's books. There were so many people that eight separate conference rooms in Weil's Dallas office were required.

US Airways executives came to Dallas to hammer out details between sips of Dr. Pepper and iced tea.

"We wowed them with Mexican food and BBQ," said Glenn West, a partner with Weil who oversaw American's negotiations.

By this point, American had secured new contracts from its unions, cut other costs and improved its revenue.

After months of negotiations, US Airways presented the merger to the creditors on Jan. 10. It proposed giving 70 percent of the new airline to them and American's employees and the remaining 30 percent to US Airways shareholders. The creditors were sold. But Horton wasn't.

His team eventually was able to shift another 2 percent ownership away from US Airways shareholders, ensuring that American's pre-bankruptcy shareholders would see some money. The new airline would be valued at \$11 billion.

The only sticking point was who would lead it.

Parker badly wanted to be the one in charge. Horton, who had spent a year fixing a broken American, believed he should be able to finish what he started.

A small group of advisers met with Horton and appealed to his principles. The airline needed a fresh start. Horton agreed and prepared to hand over the reins to Parker, his friend and rival for three decades.

Horton put his principles first and did what was right for American, said Beverly Goulet, American's treasurer and chief restructuring officer.

"He's put his heart and soul into this for most of his career," she said. "All things being equal, he might prefer to be the guy sitting in the CEO chair."



In this Feb. 14, 2013 file photo, U.S. Airways CEO Doug Parker, right, and American Airlines CEO Tom Horton pose after a news conference at DFW International Airport Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013, in Grapevine, Texas. AP

In path to American's merger, 1 CEO had to leave

cally sit on the sidelines.

American's creditors took a much more active role.

It started with their choice of lawyers. After American filed for bankruptcy protection, the creditors interviewed several law firms in a basement ballroom of the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. "You have to decide whether you are going to be proactive or reactive," Jack Butler, of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, told the committee.

The creditors chose proactive, and Butler's team was hired.

It probably helped that Butler had represented US Airways in its 2002 bankruptcy and Skadden's head of restructuring, Jay M. Goffman, had worked closely with Parker after 9/11, when Parker ran America West. Skadden was also America West's counsel when it later merged with US Airways.

"We said: You should pick a firm that does a lot of deals," Goffman recalled.

The full press started in February 2012, when the committee's lawyers invited Horton and two of his top lieutenants to a dinner at the firm's Times Square office. There, 38 floors above the city, overlooking the Empire State

Building, creditor representatives talked about the merits of a merger. They didn't like American's plan to stay independent, thinking they could get back more of the money they were owed through a merger.

Kirby had reserved a private table. It turned out to be in the kitchen.

"It was private," Bates said. "Just noisy."

Bates and another union leader—Dennis Tager—ordered a mix of East Coast and West Coast oysters. A joke was made because US Airways has two separate unions, referred to as east and west.

Kirby passed on the appetizer. "I found out he's not a fan of oysters," Bates said.

The meeting otherwise went well. Bates and union vice president Tony Chapman flew to Phoenix 10 days later for dinner with Kirby and Parker. A steakhouse dinner quickly followed with some of the union's leaders and most of US Airways management.

Steps were taken to ensure the meetings remained a secret.

Too many American pilots recognize

with the flight attendant union and one that represents ground service employees and maintenance workers.

Around this time, Parker sent a letter to American formally proposing a merger. US Airways would own 51 percent of the new airline. The offer wasn't taken seriously.

On April 20, Parker publicly announced that American's three unions were backing a merger.

It was an audacious move.

American was still in control of its bankruptcy but suddenly there was another option on the table. The unions told the court that jobs and wages didn't need to be cut.

Wall Street analysts supported a merger, preferring Parker as the new CEO.

Horton publicly told employees "nothing changes as a result of these announcements." But privately he and other top American executives were rethinking a deal.

American had originally planned to emerge from bankruptcy and talk to several airlines, including US Airways. Horton became convinced that if he waited too long, a deal might not be available to him.

Campus Life

Big win for GCA K-12 students

For the fourth time, Grace Christian Academy competitors were consistent in bagging the most first place awards in the last Primary Grades Forensic Conference qualifying monthly competition held at Hopwood Junior High School on Feb. 9, 2013. They got a total of seven first-place-per-event awards for their kindergarten to 5th grade competitors.

GCA students did the same

thing in the first of two monthly qualifying competitions of Math Court for kindergarten to 5th grade. GCA K-5 mathletes won seven first-place awards from the competition held at Kobleville Elementary School on Feb. 2, 2013.

For the higher grades, GCA 6th-8th grade competitors also did well in the NJFL competition as well as the 9th-12th

grades in NFL competition during the third monthly qualifying rounds held at Garapan Elementary School on Jan. 26, 2013.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy are very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in these island-wide competitions.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's February PGFC winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's February Math Court K-5 winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's January NJFL/NFL winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

- PRIMARY GRADES FORENSIC CONFERENCE
Kindergarten -5th Grade**
- K-2 DIVISION**
Impromptu Speaking A
Briston James Jones, 1st place
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 2nd place
Alana Carrasco, 4th place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Makena Carrasco, 1st place
Deancey Chua, 2nd place
Kei Lizama, 3rd place
Ryan Daproza, 4th place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th place
- Dramatic Interpretation A**
Steven Adriatico, 2nd place
- Duo Interpretation A**
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 2nd place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 2nd place
Katelyn Mafnas, 4th place
Elialyn Maria Naputi, 4th place
- Readers Forum Masters A**
Steven Adriatico, 1st place
Ryan Daproza, 5th place
- Readers Forum Masters B**
Mikaelah Owens, 2nd place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th place
- Choral Speaking A**
Kimberly Jean Buan, 3rd place
Alana Carrasco, 3rd place
Briston James Jones, 3rd place
Lance Andrei Lerio, 3rd place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 3rd place
- 3-5 DIVISION**
Impromptu Speaking A
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st place
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 2nd place
Na Lee Lee, 3rd place
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 5th place
- Impromptu Speaking B**
Jonathan Lee, 1st place
Jim Michael Ham, 2nd place
Elliot Lee, 3rd place
Noah Mesa, 4th place
- Reader's Forum Masters A**
Julia Kim, 4th place
James Alexander Keaton, 5th place
- Reader's Forum Masters B**
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 1st place
Tae Yong Kim, 3rd place
Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 4th place
Jim Michael Ham, 5th place

- Reader's Forum Masters D**
Gianpaolo Borromeo, 1st place
Jonathan Lee, 3rd place
Jimin Woo, 4th place
Elliot Lee, 5th place
- Duo Interpretation A**
Jimin Woo, 5th place
Karissa Roselyn Quichocho, 5th place
- Humorous Interpretation A**
Gianpaolo Borromeo, 4th place
Tae Yong Kim, 5th place
- Volunteer Judges:** Beatrice Fatialofa, Rowena Libut, Paulo Montecarlo, Emman Parian, Glenn Keaton
PGFC coordinator: Esther Manzano
- MATH COURT
Kindergarten- 5th Grade**
- Kindergarten**
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st place
Katelyn Mafnas, 1st place
Tae Hee Kim, 1st place
Lance Andrei Lerio, 2nd place
- First Grade**
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 1st place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 2nd place
Aaron Chen, 3rd place
- Second Grade**
Ryan Daproza, 1st place
Jin Hwan Yoon, 3rd place
- Third Grade**
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 1st place
Miku Kimura, 1st place
James Alexander Keaton, 2nd place
- Fourth Grade**
Gianpaolo Borromeo, 1st place
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 4th place
- Third Grade**
Tae Yong Kim, 3rd place
- Math Court coordinator:**
Susan Pajarillaga
- NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE
6TH-8TH GRADE**
- Extemporaneous Speech**
Minna Ito, 1st place
- Original Oratory**
Minna Ito, 2nd place

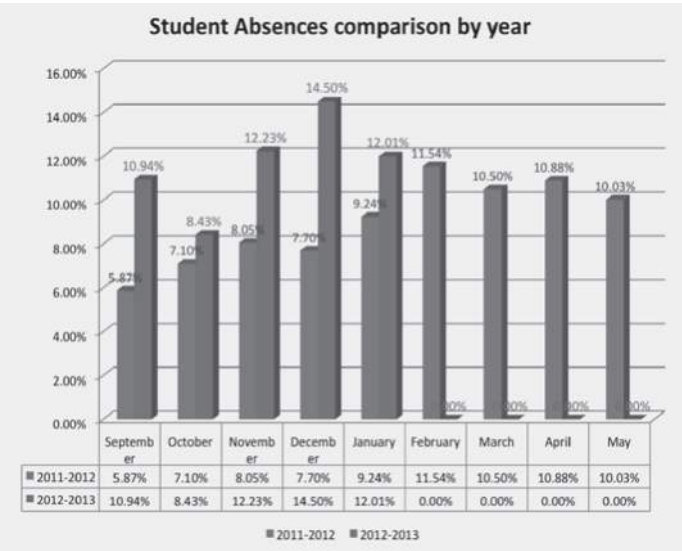
- Poetry Reading Masters A**
Yujin Lee, 2nd place
Robert Marmito, 3rd place
- Poetry Reading Masters B**
Cyril Salcedo, 4th place
- Poetry Reading B**
Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, 4th place
- Prose Reading Masters A**
Yujin Lee, 1st place
Dianne Arnold, 2nd place
- Prose Reading Masters B**
Tina Choi, 3rd place
Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, 5th place
- Prose Reading Masters C**
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 5Place
- Duo Interpretation A**
Cyril Salcedo, 5th place
Robert Marmito, 5th place
- Duo Interpretation B**
Dianne Arnold, 4th place
Peggy Pixley, 4th place
- Impromptu Speech A**
Dianne Arnold, 4th place
- NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE
9TH-12TH GRADE**
- Dramatic Interpretation A**
Rebekah Kim, 1st place
- Dramatic Interpretation B**
Kayla Sasaki, 2nd place
- Duo Interpretation A**
Rebekah Kim, 4th place
Jimaela Ham, 4th place
- Poetry Reading Masters A**
Rebekah Kim, 3rd place
Kayla Sasaki, 4th place
- Poetry Reading Masters B**
Angela Mamaril, 1st place
- Prose Reading Masters B**
Jimaela Ham, 1st place
- U.S. Extemporaneous Speech**
Angela Mamaril, 2nd place
- Commentary A**
Angela Mamaril, 3rd place
- NJFL/NFL coordinator:**
Ami Joy Danganan

KHS imposes new policy on absenteeism

Attendance data for Kagman High School shows that absenteeism is on the rise compared to last school year. For this school year, 2012-2013, the average rise in absenteeism is 4 percent. Although 4 percent does not seem like a big number, this translates into about 25 more students absent on average daily compared to last school year.

Student absences for December 2012 were 14.5 percent. This is over 90 students absent daily for the month. This is double the previous years December average of only 7.7 percent or about 48 students. KHS has to wonder what is going on to have such a rise in absenteeism.

Did you know your attendance in high school can pre-



determine the success you have during and after high school? Truancy is said to be caused by

a combination of three factors: the student, the student's family, or the school. Whatever the

causes are, the consequences are dire. It is because of these consequences that KHS takes attendance or lack of attendance so seriously.

Kagman High School's objective is to prepare students for the real world. Part of this preparation is preparing students to be responsible citizens who contribute to society. Part of that objective is preparing students for the workforce. Every employer will agree that one of the most important aspects of an employee's work is their time and attendance. We like to think of KHS as practice for the real world. In the real world, you lose your job if you have poor attendance. Because KHS realizes at-

tendance is very important to your future, the following policy will be enforced:

- Any student coming to school late three days or more each week will be assigned work detail for every day they are late. (If you sign in at the front gate you are already late and are on my list. Sign in at the gate three days in one week you will get work detail.)
- Any student who chooses to skip Homeroom three days or more each week will be assigned work detail for every day they skipped.
- Any student who skips work detail will be assigned double their work detail sentence. Five days becomes 10 days.
- Any student, who skips work detail a second time, will be sent to the ALT ED for three days. No exceptions. (KHS)

COMMON CONSEQUENCES OF TRUANCY

- **Dropping out of school.** Students who are chronically truant typically fall behind in grade level and drop out of school.
- **Delinquency.** Students who are chronically truant are also at-risk for other behaviors, such as alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and delinquency.
- **Negative effect upon other students.** Students who are chronically truant require extra time from teachers; teachers have less time to spend with the regularly-attending students in the classroom when they must create make-up work for truants.

Source:
<http://www.truancy prevention.org/>

Life & Style

MacFarlane putting all he's got into the Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seth MacFarlane might be the hardest working man in show business.

Right now he's getting ready to host Sunday's Academy Awards, where he's also a nominee for the original song for his hit movie "Ted." He's producing and writing three animated TV shows, plus voicing many of their key characters.

"I'm a little exhausted," the 39-year-old confessed in a recent interview.

The multitasking entertainer talked with The Associated Press about what makes a great Oscar show, juggling multiple jobs and who he thinks will host next year.

AP: What's been the best part of the Oscar job so far?

MacFarlane: I've enjoyed the writing process. It's really a very different type of production than I've been involved with in the past and it's such an extensive amount of time, and putting it together and having it feel like it has a shape and a consistency has really been a challenge.

AP: How much is with your own writing team?

MacFarlane: My staff has been composed of primarily "Family Guy" writers, but there've been about maybe four folks that have been brought on

from other places. But for the most part I've been allowed to assemble my own staff, and we've tried to find a balance of people that I've worked with for a lot of years and that know my rhythms and some new people as well, a few of whom have worked on past Oscar ceremonies.

AP: What are the elements of a great Oscar host?

MacFarlane: It's part classy Master of Ceremonies and part Friars Club roaster.

AP: How hard has it been to find that middle ground?

MacFarlane: It's been a challenge but not an enormous challenge. We are, I hope, smart enough guys to be aware of what the tone is and to work within those parameters. So you won't be seeing any (penis) jokes. It's still Disney, for Christ's sake.

AP: Is a blend of Ricky Gervais and Billy Crystal the best example of what you're going for?

MacFarlane: Certainly Billy Crystal, Johnny Carson and Bob Hope are the three that stand out as the paragons of class and effectiveness and comedic balance in the history of the Oscars. I'm going to go out there and certainly be mindful that that's what works but also try and inject some of what I do into the mix and hope-



In this Jan. 13, 2013 file photo, 2013 Oscar host Seth MacFarlane presents the Academy nominations for the 85th Academy Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

fully come out with something that is fresh and surprising and has an edge but doesn't completely thumb its nose at the Oscars. Change happens incrementally... I think it's safe to say what we're doing is very self-aware of this challenge that everyone keeps asking about.

AP: How long did you continue voicing the characters on your animated shows after taking on the Oscar job?

MacFarlane: That's always the challenge. The shows don't stop for this stuff. They still

have to keep moving. And it is a vocal strain. "Family Guy" and "American Dad!" are very vocally taxing shows. There's a lot of high-energy stuff, a lot of screaming, yelling. A lot of vocal contortions. So that becomes really the biggest challenge of all: How to get it all done and keep it all on schedule and not destroy my throat.

AP: So you've essentially had two or three full-time jobs.

MacFarlane: Who knows how this will go. Even if it goes great, I just don't think that I could do this

again. It's just too much with everything else that I have to do. I'm happy to be doing it and I will be thrilled to have done it, assuming I get out of there in one piece, but I really think this is a one-time thing for me.

AP: Why?

MacFarlane: I just don't like working 150 hours a week. I do like to have some sort of recharge time. I think it makes everything better. If you're working around the clock, the work starts to suffer. And it hasn't thus far, but I'm glad (the Oscars are) in a week and a half because I'm getting close to the point where I can't do six jobs at the same time. And also, Craig and Neil have been pretty open about the fact that they really want to do this once. They want to put on the best Oscars that they possi-

bly can and call it a day... And I have a feeling whoever produces next year will want to put their own stamp on it. Everybody sort of assumes that Tina (Fey) and Amy (Poehler) will do it next year, and I think that is very likely. So whoever comes in and produces next year I think will want to make their own mark. Even if I wanted to do it again, I think that is a factor. Craig and Neil, I am very much a product of their gamble—and I'm busting my ass to make sure they don't regret it. But we are all sort of looking at this as a one-time thing.

AP: Will you take vacation after this? What are you most looking forward to doing?

MacFarlane: I'll get a little bit of time off. I'll get a week or two off. And I'll probably just do nothing. Even travel sounds exhausting.

Reader's Digest parent seeks bankruptcy protection

NEW YORK (AP)—The parent company of Reader's Digest has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for the second time in less than four years, saying it needs to cut its debt so it can keep restructuring.

RDA Holding Co. says it will keep publishing the magazine during the bankruptcy, and aims to be out of Chapter 11 within six months.

The circulation of Reader's Digest has declined because of competition from the Internet—shrinking by nearly two-thirds since 1995—but it is still one of the world's most-read magazines.

The New York company said late Sunday that it plans to cut its debt load by 80 percent during the restructuring, leaving it with about \$100 million in debt. It said it has already reached agreements with its secured lender and more than 70 percent of its secured noteholders. A group of its creditors have supplied \$45 million in new financing to help Reader's Digest go through the process as part of a \$105 million loan to repay existing bank debt.

As revenue declines, Reader's Digest has been selling off some of its assets. Its food website Allrecipes.com went for \$175 million last year, and it sold its Every Day with Rachael Ray cooking magazine in late 2011. Meredith Corp., publisher of the Better Homes and Gardens magazine, bought both.

Reader's Digest paid circulation fell 0.6 percent to 5.5 million at the end of last year, accord-

ing to the Alliance for Audited Media. That was about where it stood after cutting its guaranteed circulation in 2009. But in 1995, Reader's Digest had circulation of more than 15 million.

The circulation-tracking company said Reader's Digest is the fifth-biggest U.S. consumer magazine by circulation, behind two AARP publications, Game Informer Magazine, and Better Homes and Gardens.

RDA's Reader's Digest Association Inc. filed for Chapter 11 protection in 2009 in the midst of a recession and the drop in advertising and circulation. The company emerged from bankruptcy in early 2010 with less debt, but has still struggled.

Robert E. Guth, RDA's president and CEO, said a "complex transformation" begun 18 months

ago under new senior managers "has resulted in a more streamlined, more focused, and more profitable business, but we have unfortunately been unable to align our debt levels correspondingly."

Besides Reader's Digest, the company publishes a food publication, Taste of Home, and has 21 brands globally.

The bankruptcy filing in the Southern District of New York covers the company's U.S. businesses. It said its international operations are not part of the filing. It said it is still looking for agreements to sell and license its international businesses, and expects to finalize some deals in coming weeks.



Ex-boyfriend: McCready left rehab too soon

HEBER SPRINGS, Ark. (AP)—Mindy McCready threatened suicide after losing custody of her sons earlier this month, yet she was allowed to leave a court-ordered drug rehabilitation program just days before she apparently killed herself at her Arkansas home, her ex-boyfriend said Monday.

Billy McKnight, who was in a long, stormy relationship with McCready and is the father of her oldest child, Zander, said the 37-year-old mother of two stayed in the substance abuse treatment center for about 18 hours before she was allowed to walk free.

McCready died Sunday at her home in Heber Springs, a vaca-

tion community about 65 miles north of Little Rock. She was found dead on the front porch, where her longtime boyfriend, musician David Wilson, died last month of a gunshot wound to the head. Authorities are investigating both deaths as suicides but haven't determined an official cause of death.

McKnight told The Associated Press during a phone interview from Tampa, Fla., that McCready and Wilson, the father of her youngest son, were recently engaged. He wondered how she was allowed to go free, given all the

turmoil in her life.

"That was a big mistake on the part of whoever released her," McKnight said. "She was



McCready

in a terrible state of mind. She doesn't perform any more. She wasn't working. She has two kids and her fiancé was just killed. There's no way she should be out by herself in a lonely house with nothing but booze and pills. That was a really, really bad mistake, and the end result is tragic."

Arkansas courts were closed for the holiday Monday, so local case documents weren't imme-

diately available.

Neighbors reported hearing two shots Sunday afternoon when they called the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office. Authorities found Wilson's dog dead next to McCready's body at the home, where yellow crime-scene tape looped through a grove of pine trees and around the one-story brick house Monday afternoon.

"Based on what we have found at the scene at this time, we do believe that she took the life of the dog that we are being told by family members belonged to Mr. Wilson before she took her own life," Sheriff Marty Moss said.

Letters from Lennon killer to NY cop on sale in LA

NEW YORK (AP)—Letters from John Lennon's killer detailing his obsession with the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" to the police officer who arrested him went on sale Monday through a Los Angeles auction house.

The four missives from Mark David Chapman to Stephen Spiro are for sale through Moments In Time, which specializes in historical documents and rare autographs, at a fixed price of \$75,000, auction house owner Gary Zimet said. Zimet is selling the letters on behalf of Spiro, who arrested Chapman on Dec. 8, 1980, shortly after

he shot Lennon outside The Dakota, the ex-Beatle's Manhattan apartment building.

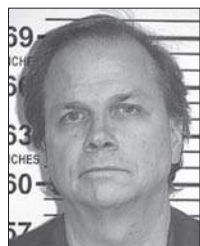
The letters are typed and signed by Chapman. They were written over several months in 1983, after he had pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison.

In the first letter, from Jan. 15, 1983, Chapman says his reason for writing, besides wanting to be Spiro's friend, is to ask for help in locating his copy of "The Catcher in The

Rye," which he was reading at the time of his arrest.

"Have you read 'The Catcher in the Rye' yet?" Chapman asks. "I would like you to read it and tell me what you think of it. As you remember, in the copy that was taken from me I had written 'This is my statement.'"

Spiro said he received the first letter at the Manhattan precinct where he worked and wrote Chapman back because he was hoping to get evidence on a possible hit



Chapman

First lady quips that midlife crisis led to bangs

PALM CITY, Fla. (AP)—Michelle Obama jokingly says a midlife crisis is what inspired her new haircut with bangs.

The first lady revealed the new hairstyle last month on her 49th birthday, which came a few days



Obama

before the festivities for President Barack Obama's second inauguration. Mrs. Obama was asked about the new haircut during an interview with talk-show host Rachael Ray.

Said Mrs. Obama: "This is my midlife crisis." She added that she cut her bangs because she can't get a sports car and won't be allowed to bungee jump.

The interview was conducted via Skype and is scheduled to air on Wednesday. The Rachael Ray show released excerpts on Monday.

Fergie, Duhamel expecting their 1st child



In this Dec. 9, 2012, file photo, Singer Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas walks with her husband Josh Duhamel, right, on the sidelines during the first quarter of an NFL football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins in San Francisco.

NEW YORK (AP)—Her hump, her hump, her lovely lady lump: Fergie is pregnant with her first child.

A representative for the Black Eyed Peas singer confirmed the news Monday. Fergie's actor husband Josh Duhamel tweeted about the news with joy, saying: "Fergie and Me and BABY makes three."

The 37-year-old Fergie and 40-year-old Duhamel married in 2009. She joined the Black Eyed Peas when the group released its third album, "Elephunk," in 2003. The foursome is known for its pop-inspired hip-hop tunes like "My Humps," "I Gotta Feeling" and "Boom Boom Pow."

Fergie launched her solo debut, "The Duchess," to much success in 2006. It featured five Top 5 hits, including "Fergalicious" and "Big Girls Don't Cry."

Duhamel has appeared in the "Transformer" films and most recently in "Safe Haven."

Boyfriend's x-rated experience leaves woman feeling blue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Doug" (24), and I (22) have been in a long-distance relationship for a year, but we were friends for a couple of years before that. I had never had a serious relationship before and lacked experience. Doug has not only been in two other long-term relationships, but has had sex with more than 15 women. One of them is an amateur porn actress.



Dear Abby

I knew about this, but it didn't bother me until recently. Doug had a party, and while he was drunk he told one of his buddies—in front of me—that he should watch a certain porn film starring his ex-girlfriend. It made me feel awkward. The next day he apologized.

Of course, having learned her name, I couldn't help myself from searching for her on the Internet. Now I can't stop comparing myself to her, and I feel intimidated and frustrated.

I have been struggling with how to get over it. Doug has told me many times that he loves me and I believe him. But those stupid, drunken comments really knocked me down. How do I get over my boyfriend's past?

ECLIPSED BY A "STAR" IN NEW YORK

DEAR ECLIPSED: A giant step in the right direction would be to quit comparing yourself to a porn actress. In his addled condition, your immature boyfriend couldn't resist bragging to his buddies because he thought it would impress them with his prowess. If he had serious feelings about her, he would still be with her, not in a relationship with you.

That said, it would be in your best interest to find out if this woman really was a "girlfriend" or one of his one-night stands. If he is in a long-distance relationship with you and tends to be promiscuous, you should be more concerned about his judgment than how to get over his past.

DEAR ABBY: We have always purchased rather than leased our cars. One of them has 225,000 miles on the odometer and is running well. I have two friends who lease expensive foreign cars. Keeping the mileage down on their cars is important to them, especially when it comes time to return them at the end of the lease.

Because of this, I find myself driving more often than I should. One friend attends a weekly meeting with me, and we're supposed to take turns driving each other every other week. But somehow I end up at the wheel more often. I'd hate to start writing down our outings, but I'm beginning to feel used.

While I respect their decision to lease expensive new cars, it is not my responsibility to keep their expenses down. Both of these women are in a better financial position than I am, although we are all "comfortable."

Any ideas about how to approach this without seeming petty? It has been going on for a long while and is starting to bother me.

DRIVEN TOO FAR IN LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR DRIVEN TOO FAR: If you feel that you are being taken advantage of, then you probably are. I recommend you wean these ladies off your chauffeur services by being less available when they need a ride. And if you are asked why, remind them of your original agreement to share the driving duties 50-50.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Olympics ceremony wins London theater prize

LONDON (AP)—Director Danny Boyle's Olympics opening ceremony has been named theater event of the year at London's Whatsonstage awards.

Boyle's spectacular panorama of British history and culture beat an eclectic list that included the "Globe to Globe" Shakespeare season and Susan Boyle musical "I Dreamed a Dream."

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" was named best new play at Sunday's awards, and "The Bodyguard" best new musical.

A Chichester Festival production of "Sweeney Todd" won five prizes including best actor and actress in a musical for Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton.

Rupert Everett was named best actor in a play for his Oscar Wilde in "The Judas Kiss," and Sheridan Smith was best actress for the title role in "Hedda Gabler."

Actor-comedian Stephen Fry said he was "simply astonished" to be named best supporting actor for playing Malvolio in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," his first stage appearance in 17 years.

Fry walked out of a West End play in 1995 and disappeared for several days. He said he feared at the time that "I might never return to the stage again."

"Les Miserables," which has been running in London since 1985 and was recently transformed into an Oscar-nominated movie, was named best West End show at the awards, which are run by theater website whatsonstage.com and decided by public vote.

Bestselling self-help author Debbie Ford has died

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The bestselling author of self-help book "The Dark Side of the Light Chasers" has died in San Diego. Debbie Ford was 57.

A family spokeswoman says Ford died Sunday in her home after a long battle with cancer. "The

Dark Side of the Light Chasers" spawned a self-help enterprise for Ford. The 1998 book aimed to help readers overcome their darker side.

Her sister, Arielle, said in a statement that the author wanted to help people break free from their emotional baggage and fear.

Ford wrote eight more books, led workshops and hosted TV and radio shows related to that topic. She often shared her battle with drug addiction, divorce and other personal struggles in her work.

She is also survived by her mother, son and brother.

Rob Belushi takes on family business with TV show

CHICAGO (AP)—The name on Hollywood audition lists and casting sheets must be unmistakably eye-catching: Rob Belushi.

The 32-year-old actor and comedian is from yes, that Belushi family. He's the son of Jim Belushi and the nephew of the late John Belushi and for the past decade or so an aspiring actor in his own right.

Rob Belushi has guest starred on TV shows like his dad's "According to Jim" and "The Defenders." He's appeared in made-for-TV movies and graced the stand-up stage. Now he's starring on the Spike TV reality program "The Joe Schmo Show" that airs on Tuesday nights.

He calls his famous last name a "double-edged sword."

"I would say people are very interested in seeing me or checking out what I have to offer," Belushi said in an interview in the lobby of a fancy downtown Chicago hotel. "I also think that they have their own expectations of what that will be and I am not my uncle or my father. That is pretty clear to see upon meeting me."

The Spike TV show requires Belushi to act off-the-cuff, using skills he learned in Chicago's improv scene—where his father and uncle got their starts, too. Belushi grew up in Chicago and moved to Los Angeles to go to high school, but



In this Feb. 5, 2013 photo, actor Rob Belushi poses for a photo in Chicago. Belushi, the son of actor Jim Belushi and nephew of the late John Belushi, is currently starring in "The Joe Schmo Show" on Spike TV.

the family business didn't interest him at first. He was more interested in behind-the-camera work.

"My dad was actor and my mom was an actor and my uncle was an actor," Belushi said. "It seemed like maybe we hit our quota."

But a few small roles in college and influence from a teacher at Wesleyan University in Connecticut steered him in front of the lens. After college he headed back to Chicago.

"I moved to Chicago so that I could do it well and not just be some jerk with an unearned last name," Belushi said.

He spent time not only at Chicago's famous Second City, but at

other improv comedy and theater schools. He also earned experience with dramatic stage performances and alongside actors like John Mahoney.

"When I first came to Chicago I really thought I had to be really special because I started in a town where my family is beloved," Belushi said. He describes working as a nanny and waiter to make money.

"My first job was as a host at Second City, where I essentially shushed drunk tourists and cleaned up throw-up in the bathroom with kitty litter," Belushi said. "But I also got to watch the show seven nights a week."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 America's uncle	59 Hunt for	20 Any of Rome's
1 Nitwit	41 Lascivious	DOWN	seven
5 High-arc shot	43 Jane Goodall's topic	1 Clark or Cavett	22 High pair
8 Book after the Gospels	46 Thesaurus compiler	2 Algerian port	23 Wooden pin
12 Rainbow	50 Leak out slowly	3 Prop for Sherlock	25 Deposit
13 Ram's mate	51 South American rodent	4 Will subject	26 Donkey
14 Exceptional	54 Ready for customers	5 Hawaiian garland	27 Overturned
15 Team leaders	55 Beerlike beverage	6 Possess	29 Existed
17 Skewer	56 Satan's forte	7 Above all others	31 11-Down's mom
18 Massage	57 Pirate William	8 Firebug's crime	32 Kitten's comment
19 However	58 Gasoline stat	9 Type of monkey	34 Bound
21 Frog's cousin		10 Advanced math	38 Pueblo structures
24 Business abbr.		11 Adam's third son	40 Fix the Constitution
25 Rate of speed		16 Commotion	42 Type of humor
28 Part of a Batman costume			43 Diner employee
30 Height of fashion?			44 Arizona tribe
33 "Born in the —"			45 Con game
34 Gem			47 Donated
35 "— Got a Secret"			48 A Great Lake
36 Recipe meas.			49 Chat
37 Addict			52 Matter-horn, e.g.
38 From the start			53 "— o' My Heart"

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	T	S	P	I	C	D	A	M	E
P	L	O	W	I	R	A	A	G	A	L
M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	N	O	G
V	P	S	D	O	G	G	I	E		
A	T	S	E	A	B	I	K	E		
H	O	W	L	M	I	N	A	R	E	T
E	H	A	S	A	I	A	L	I	E	
M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L	B	A	L
W	O	K	S	T	E	N	T	S		
T	R	O	O	P	S	O	W	E		
H	O	B	O	M	I	N	O	T	A	U
A	T	O	P	A	C	T	I	F		
T	E	E	S	N	E	O	E	R	O	S

Yesterday's answer 2-20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
		21		22	23		24			
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32
33			34					35		
36			37					38		
	39	40		41		42				
43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rihanna, 25; Brian Littrell, 38; Willie Garson, 49; Sidney Poitier, 86

Happy Birthday: Look inward and you will find a purpose calling you to help others. Fixing mistakes and moving forward with greater wisdom gained from experience will bring you peace of mind as well as inspiration to take on a challenge. Show everyone your capabilities. Your numbers are 4, 10, 19, 24, 31, 33, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Observe and you will avoid problems with friends or colleagues. Listen carefully and assess the situation without making any impulsive moves. Strive to get along and finish what you start. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Helping others will lead to favors and advancement. A partnership with someone who has attributes that bring out the best in you will lead to a winning situation and a bright future. Share your creative ideas and expand your interests. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Displaying uncertainty or insecurity will set you back. Hide your fear and focus on what you do best. Don't allow someone with little to offer become your judge. Speak from the heart. Integrity and honesty will count. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't make a move. Let everyone come to you. Your savvy way of dealing with others will put you in the driver's seat. Don't be afraid to boast about your accomplishments. ★★

What you offer will be appreciated. Joint ventures will pay off. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think outside the box. With a little help from someone who owes you a favor, you will be able to get ahead. Don't let anyone put demands on you that will stifle what you can achieve. Love and romance are highlighted. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't go overboard if someone asks for assistance. Someone trying to take advantage of your skills, talents and knowledge must be controlled. A difficult partnership should be reassessed before you become too entrenched to back out gracefully. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Size up your situation, keeping your emotions in check. The less others know about the way you feel, the easier it will be for you to get what you want. Mixing business with pleasure will require discipline. Don't give in to demands. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make plans to do something exciting. Visiting someone who lives differently from you will enable you to see the possibilities for making your life simpler. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Watch over friends, family and your home. Expect to encounter trouble if you don't stick to the rules. You will need to make changes or sacrifices in order to avoid an emotional situation that could affect a close relationship. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3	5				2	8		
4				8		3				7
				7						9
				2						1
				4						5
		1						9		
	9						6			
8						1				
6	7	2	9		8	1	4	3		

Difficulty Level ★★

2/20

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5	1
4	5	7	1	2	3	8	9	6
3	1	6	9	8	5	2	4	7
5	6	2	4	9	8	1	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	4	6	9
9	4	1	6	3	7	5	8	2
2	7	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
6	3	8	5	7	2	9	1	4
1	9	5	3	4	6	7	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★

2/19

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rely on past experience and people to help you get what you want. A career move or development will enable you to reach a goal ahead of schedule. Don't let impulses take over. Savor the moment. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wait and see what everyone else does before making a move. Concentrate on what you want to do in the future and research what's required to reach your goals. Romance may entice you, but you must take care of business first. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Speak up, share your ideas and make financial decisions that will secure your reputation and your ability to get ahead in the future. Changes at home will contribute to your emotional and creative wellness. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You welcome change and dislike routine. You are an imaginative dreamer.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](http://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](http://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](http://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WOODEN BOXES

Solution: 8 letters

T	Y	K	T	S	C	L	O	S	E	D	A	O	L	P
U	R	E	E	D	E	S	I	G	N	S	T	P	N	A
N	O	E	L	I	I	D	S	T	F	I	G	E	E	L
L	M	P	A	K	E	V	H	S	M	H	D	N	E	L
A	E	S	V	S	R	E	I	B	T	O	I	N	F	E
W	M	A	F	O	U	R	E	D	O	O	G	P	F	T
R	C	K	S	Q	S	R	I	W	E	T	R	Y	O	W
E	O	E	I	P	T	W	E	D	H	R	T	A	C	I
K	R	T	C	R	I	P	H	S	E	C	S	L	G	N
N	N	D	A	H	C	R	R	E	U	G	A	P	E	E
A	E	Y	R	B	E	S	T	E	L	N	S	I	S	
B	R	T	R	A	B	S	L	S	A	L	E	I	E	D
U	S	O	Y	M	W	E	T	R	N	X	S	D	H	I
R	W	O	U	G	R	E	G	L	O	S	S	Y	I	L
N	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R	B	K	C	A	T	S	W

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/20
Antique, Banker, Bottles, Boxes, Brown, Burn, Carry, Case, Chest, Closed, Coffee, Corners, Cutlery, Design, Display, Dividers, Drawer, Four, Gifts, Glossy, Hinged, Keepsake, Large, Length, Lids, Load, Lumber, Memory, Open, Pallet, Recycle, Rustic, Sides, Skids, Stack, Storage, Strips, Timber, Tool, Tray, Treasures, Valet, Walnut, Wheels, Wide, Width, Wine, Wooden
Yesterday's Answer: Inspire
Inspire: Inspire is a verb meaning to encourage or motivate someone to do something. It can also mean to give someone a new idea or inspiration. The word is derived from the Latin word 'inspirare', which means 'to breathe into' or 'to inspire'. The word is often used to describe a person who is able to inspire others to do their best.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: A piece of cake

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Sherman Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village,
Tinian MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-2664;
Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Feb 20, 2013
Close Date: Feb 27, 2013

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Salary: \$2,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate
(5) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00>

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 or email phil@shermanpacific.com on or before February 27, 2013

LCD & Plasma TV Repair

Samsung, Philips, Vizio

Call for more information

233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday • 9:00AM-7:00PM

www.saipantribune.com

South Pacific Lumber Co.

➤ Warehouse Space & Equipment Rental/Sales

➤ Metal Roofing Panels for Sale

Located in Lower Base (Industrial Area)
For inquiries, please call 989-8809

MARFEGA TRADING CO., INC.

P.O. Box 502356 CK. Saipan, MP 96950
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Human Resource Specialist

- Maintain employment records, Explain HR policies & procedures.
- Recruitment, Placement & Training of employees, Inform job applicants of details of duties & responsibilities, schedules, compensation & benefits.
- Address employee relations issue i.e. work, complaints & other employee concerns.
- Maintain & updates human resource document, such as organizational chart, employee handbooks, evaluation forms. Confer with management to develop or implement personnel policies or procedures.
- Renewal of business permits/licenses including processing of employment permits.
- Labor relations, coordination & negotiations.
- Other duties that may be assigned.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Behavioral Science (BS Psychology/BS Management or its equivalent)
- With at least two (2) years hands on experience in all facets of HR
- Familiar with Labor laws, EEO, ADA (both local and provisions of Federal laws pertaining to Employment)
- Computer literate, can operate office equipment like fax machines, photocopier, scanner, 10-key calculators.

Applicants must be fully qualified, with valid Police & Health Clearance, clean driver's record, willing to work flexible hours, multi tasking & assigned in other locations of the company. Salary is \$5.55-\$5.75 per hour; 32 hours per week, Bi-weekly payroll.

For inquiry or interview please contact Ms. Aileen Arnold-Soriano at 288-0373

Fax your resume at (670) 288-0389 or email at islandereprocess@yahoo.com

NEW POSITION

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION – SAIPAN

**Has an opening for an
Accounting Assistant or Accounting Clerk**

For established small business

- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls
- Responsible for daily, weekly and monthly sales reports and bank and credit card reconciliation
 - Auditing daily shift sales reports
- Must demonstrate excellent Word & Excel skills
- Experience with Quick Books and ACCPAC accounting programs
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English
 - Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines
 - Full time and part time employment available
 - 5 years accounting experience
- On island references & police clearance required

Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2013
Fax Resume to (670) 235-4763
or email them to deltamtgt@pticom.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk, \$ 5.55 to \$ 6.60: Must have more than 5 years experience in accounting work; at least 1 year work experience in public accounting office; at least 4 years work experience in administrative position and exposure working with the company executives; knowledge in Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 503198, Saipan MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.)

1 Accountant: \$5.05-8.50/hr. Bachelor's degree in accounting required. Must be familiar with U.S. GAAP. Public accounting experience required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Piano teacher: \$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com.

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

P.O. Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427; Fax. (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Feb 20, 2013
Close Date: Feb 27, 2013

Position: (1) Supervisor
Salary: \$1,250 per month
Qualification: High school graduate or vocational (5) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/41-1011.00>

Position: (1) Office Manager
Salary: \$1,250 per month
Qualification: AA degree/college graduate (5) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-1011.00>

Position: (1) Mechanic
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or vocational (5) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3052.00>

Position: (1) Custodial Worker
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent (3) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/37-2011.00>

Position: (2) Grounds Maintenance Worker
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent (3) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/37-3011.00>

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Salary: \$5.55 - \$6.05 Per Hour
Qualification: College Graduate (3) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00>

Position: (1) Maintenance Technician
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or vocational (3) yrs experience

Link:
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-9071.00>

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before February 27, 2013.

EMPLOYMENT

Cement Laborer - \$5.55/hr Cement handling equipment exp preferred. Apply at Hanson Micronesia Cement

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00/month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE
TWINKLE BRITE
WATER COMPANY
LOCATED IN SAN ANTONIO
FOR MORE INFO CALL 285-0478

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



WHATZIT? © 2013 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

FOR RENT

Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.
Warehouse Building B
 For additional information, please call
Tel: 670-285-1487 or
email: saisteve@pticom.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

4 Bedroom, 2 Storey Bldg
 with 2 bathroom & 1 small office space.
 Located in Papago
 PLUS: 2 Barber Chairs and 1 Facial Bed for Sale
 Please call Ellen Delos Santos at 285-2847
 Serious Callers Only

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**4 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

High school diploma with (5) years minimum work related experience. Able to operate several types of heavy equipment including but not limited to Backhoe/Loader, Road Grader, Tractor/Trailer Combo, Bulldozer, Hydraulic Crane. Load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload. Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Clean, lubricate and inspect mechanisms or accessories such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices to prevent malfunctions or damage. Perform routine maintenance of equipment. Must have knowledge in troubleshooting and able to diagnose problem or malfunction and make repairs as necessary.

Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing Date: February 21, 2013

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.**(01) BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR**

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or application to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please contact Judy Arriola a 234-2903 ext 124.

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
 email: administration@cda.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION VACANCY: Loan Officer IV
ANNUAL SALARY: \$24,889.35 – 30,246.74

This position is a senior level position responsible for developing new business, underwriting, restructuring, closing of loans, maintaining and servicing existing loan portfolios. The position requires the individual to participate in marketing CDA's loan programs and services and explore other funding resources and opportunities to leverage CDA's funds. The individual must possess a high degree of knowledge and comprehension in economics, finance, and business and is required to maintain a reasonable relationship with clients and provide technical assistance within his or her capacity.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a Bachelor's degree in finance, economics, or related business field, plus five (5) years of experience in professional level commercial real estate lending, financial and credit analysis work or related field.

A detail duties and responsibilities and employment application may be obtained at the CDA Office, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or CDA's website at www.cda.gov.mp. Applications **must be submitted to the OPM** by Friday, March 1, 2013 closing date.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at 234-6245 ext.310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
 Executive Director

S P O R T S**Jerry Buss, Lakers' flamboyant owner, dies at 80**

By GREG BEACHAM
 AP SPORTS WRITER



Jerry Buss built a glittering life at the intersection of sports and Hollywood.

After growing up in poverty in Wyoming, he earned success in academia, aerospace and real estate before discovering his favorite vocation when he bought the Los Angeles Lakers in 1979. While Buss wrote the checks and fostered partnerships with two generations of basketball greats, the Lakers won 10 NBA titles and became a glamorous global brand.

With a scientist's analytical skills, a playboy's flair, a businessman's money-making savvy and a die-hard hoops fan's heart, Buss fashioned the Lakers into a remarkable sports entity. They became a nightly happening, often defined by just one word coined by Buss: Showtime.

"His impact is felt worldwide," said Kobe Bryant, who has spent nearly half his life working for Buss.

Buss, who shepherded his NBA team from the Showtime dynasty of the 1980s to the current Bryant era while becoming one of the most important and successful owners in pro sports, died Monday. He was 80.

"Think about the impact that he's had on the game and the decisions he's made, and the brand of basketball he brought here with Showtime and the impact that had on the sport as a whole," Bryant said a few days ago. "Those vibrations were felt to a kid all the way in Italy who was 6 years old, before basketball was even global."

Under Buss' leadership, the star-studded, trophy-winning Lakers became Southern California's most beloved sports franchise and a signature cultural representation of Los Angeles. Buss acquired, nurtured and befriended a staggering array of talented players and basketball minds during his Hall of Fame tenure, from Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy to Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and Dwight Howard.

Few owners in sports history can approach Buss' accomplishments with the Lakers, who made the NBA Finals 16 times during his nearly 34 years in charge, winning 10 titles between 1980 and 2010. Whatever the Lakers did under Buss' watch, they did it big—with marquee players, eye-popping style and a relentless pursuit of success with little regard to its financial cost.

"His incredible commitment and desire to build a championship-caliber team that could sustain success over a long period of time has been unmatched," said Jerry West, Buss' long-time general manager and now a consultant with the Golden State Warriors. "With all of his achievements, Jerry was without a doubt one of the most humble

In this June 18, 1981 file photo, Jerry Buss holds a Los Angeles Lakers shirt in Los Angeles. Buss died Monday, Feb. 18, 2013. Buss, the Lakers' playboy owner who shepherded the NBA franchise to 10 championships, has died.

AP



men I've ever been around. His vision was second to none; he wanted an NBA franchise brand that represented the very best and went to every extreme to accomplish his goals."

Buss died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said Bob Steiner, his assistant and longtime friend. Buss had been hospitalized for most of the past 18 months while undergoing cancer treatment, but the cause of death was kidney failure, Steiner said.

"When someone as celebrated and charismatic as Jerry Buss dies, we are reminded of two things," said Abdul-Jabbar, the leading scorer in NBA history. "First, just how much one person with vision and strength of will can accomplish. Second, how fragile each of us is, regardless of how powerful we were. Those two things combine to inspire us to reach for the stars, but also to remain with our feet firmly on the ground among our loved ones. ... The man may be gone, but he has made us all better people for knowing him."

With his condition worsening in recent months, several prominent former Lakers visited Buss to say goodbye. Even rivals such as Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and Clippers owner Donald Sterling hailed the passion and bonhomie of the former chemist and mathematician who lived his own Hollywood dream.

"He was a great man and an incredible friend," Johnson tweeted.

Buss always referred to the Lakers as his extended family, and his players rewarded his fan-like excitement with devotion, friendship and two hands full of championship rings. Working with front-office executives West, Bill Sharman and Mitch Kupchak, Buss spent lavishly to win his titles despite lacking a huge personal fortune, often running the NBA's highest payroll while also paying high-profile coaches Pat Riley and Phil Jackson.

"Jerry Buss was more than just an owner. He was one of the great

innovators that any sport has ever encountered," Riley said. "He was a true visionary, and it was obvious with the Lakers in the 80's that 'Showtime' was more than just Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. It was really the vision of a man who saw something that connected with a community."

Ownership of the Lakers is now in a trust controlled by Buss' six children, who all have worked for the Lakers in various capacities for several years. With 1,786 victories, the Lakers easily are the NBA's winningest franchise since he bought the club, which is now run largely by Jim Buss and Jeanie Buss.

"We not only have lost our cherished father, but a beloved man of our community and a person respected by the world basketball community," the Buss family said in a statement issued by the Lakers.

"It was our father's often-stated desire and expectation that the Lakers remain in the Buss family. The Lakers have been our lives as well, and we will honor his wish and do everything in our power to continue his unparalleled legacy."

Johnson and fellow Hall of Famers Abdul-Jabbar and Worthy formed lifelong bonds with Buss during the Lakers' run to five titles in nine years in the 1980s, when the Lakers earned a reputation as basketball's most exciting team with their flamboyant Showtime repartee.

The buzz extended throughout the Forum, where Buss turned the Lakers' games into a must-see event. He used the Laker Girls, a brass band and promotions to keep Lakers fans interested during all four quarters. Courtside seats, priced at \$15 when he bought the Lakers, became the hottest tickets in Hollywood—and they still are, with fixture Jack Nicholson and many other celebrities attending every home game.

"Anybody associated with the NBA since 1980 benefited greatly from Jerry Buss' impact on the game," Steiner said. "He

had a different way of looking at things than I did, and people who had been raised in basketball."

Buss paid the Lakers' bills through both their wild success and his groundbreaking moves to raise revenue. He co-founded a basic-cable sports television network and sold the naming rights to the Forum at times when both now-standard strategies were unusual, further justifying his induction to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010.

"The NBA has lost a visionary owner whose influence on our league is incalculable and will be felt for decades to come," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "More importantly, we have lost a dear and valued friend."

Showtime couldn't last forever, but after a rough stretch in the 1990s, Buss rekindled the Lakers' mystique by paying top dollar to hire Jackson, who led O'Neal and Bryant to a threepeat from 2000-02. Bryant and Pau Gasol won two more titles under Jackson in 2009 and 2010.

The current Lakers (25-29) have struggled mightily despite adding Howard and Steve Nash in a couple of moves that were typical of Buss' big, brash style. Los Angeles could miss the playoffs this spring for just the third time since Buss bought the franchise.

"Today is a very sad day for all the Lakers and basketball," Gasol tweeted. "All my support and condolences to the Buss family. Rest in peace Dr. Buss."

Although Buss gained fame and another fortune with the Lakers, he also was a scholar, Renaissance man and bon vivant who epitomized California cool his entire public life.

Buss rarely appeared in public without at least one attractive, much younger woman on his arm—at Southern California football games, high-stakes poker tournaments, hundreds of boxing matches promoted by Buss at the Forum—and, of course, Lakers games from his private box at Staples Center, which

See JERRY on Next Page

NBA to resume, with Lakers in funk and Heat on top

HOUSTON (AP)—Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers turned their attention Monday from bad basketball and trade talk to more somber matters.

The death of Jerry Buss, their longtime owner, was a blow for a franchise that was so often in championship chase under his leadership. With Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, and finally Bryant and Pau Gasol, the Lakers won 10 titles under since Buss became owner in 1979.

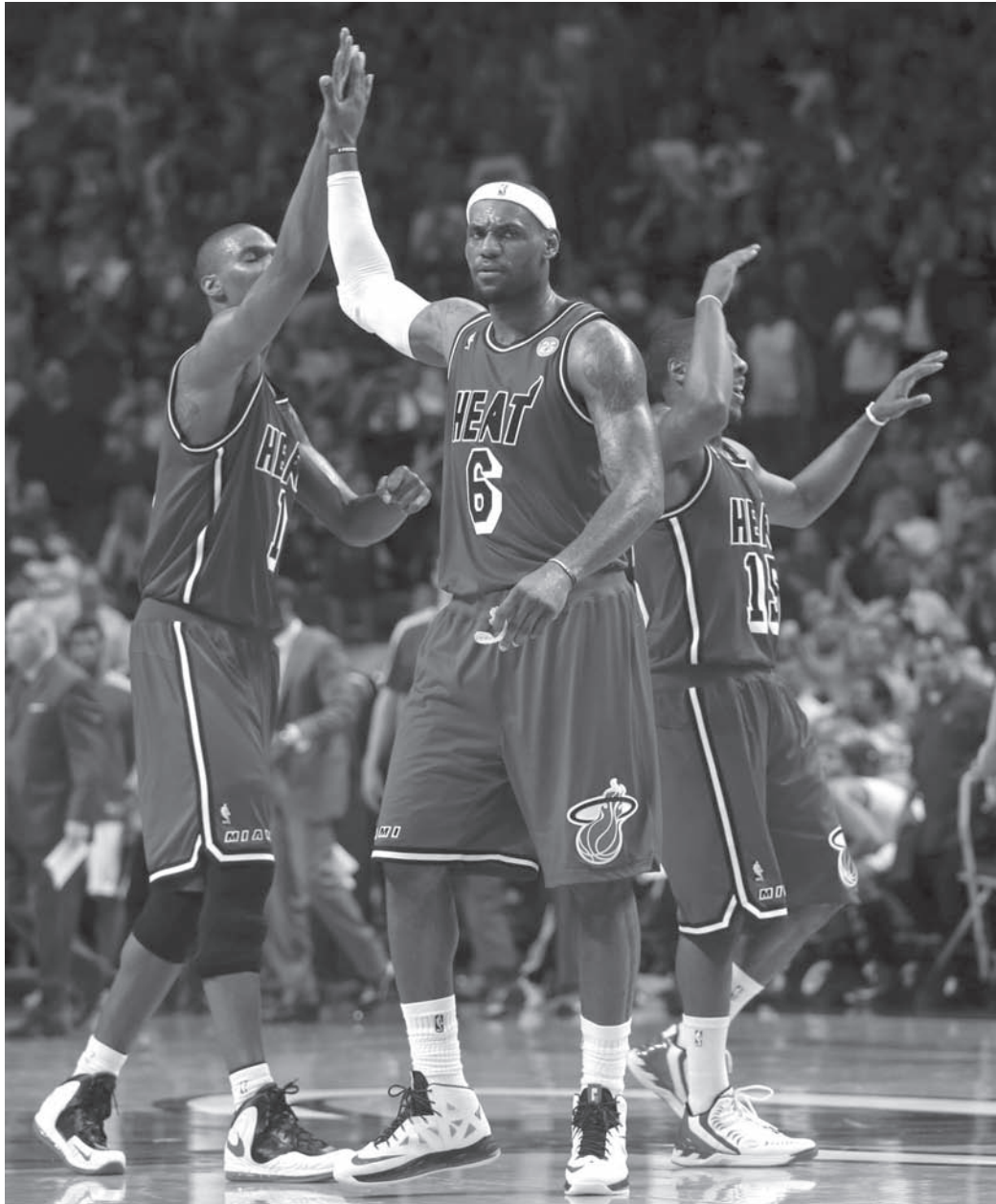
The Bryant-Gasol-Dwight Howard-Steve Nash combination wasn't working nearly as well.

The Lakers are 25-29, currently in 10th place in the Western Conference, miles behind the Clippers in their division and their own building, and out of the playoff race. Gasol is hurt and Howard has been unhappy, leading to speculation he could be dealt before Thursday's trade deadline even though the Lakers have said otherwise.

Yet Bryant spoke confidently of a turnaround Sunday after the All-Star game, just hours before Buss' death at 80.

"I think we've been playing pretty well coming into the break," Bryant said. "We laid a couple of eggs there against the Celtics and the Clippers, but all in all we've been playing pretty well, much better than we have been. We just have to continue to improve and we'll do much better in the second half."

It starts Tuesday, with the Lakers looking to get back on track, the Miami Heat in command in the East and LeBron James in command of everyone. Bryant blocked James' shots



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) high-fives teammate Chris Bosh (1) after scoring against the Portland Trail Blazers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013. AP

twice in the final minutes of the West's 143-138 victory over the East on Sunday in the All-Star game. It was a rare failure for James, who has been sensational all season and whose Heat have

hit their stride. Miami ran off seven straight victories going into the break and starting to build a comfortable lead in the conference.

"We just want to play our game," he said. "We want to

continue to get better each and every game. Not waste an opportunity when we get on the floor. Play as a team and if we do that, we'll be fine.

The Heat overwhelmed the

Thunder in Oklahoma City on Thursday in an NBA Finals rematch, improving to just 13-11 on the road. All-Star forward Chris Bosh said Miami is only a 7 on a scale of 1 to 10, believing the Heat still have to put together a string of road victories to prove they are really in championship form.

"Just the fact that we had room to improve, we can play better on the road and we're still first in the East, that means a lot to us and that means we can get a lot better," Bosh said.

New York is the closest challenger in the standings, while Indiana and Chicago have already beaten Miami this season and could become stronger with Danny Granger soon returning to the Pacers and perhaps Derrick Rose coming back to the Bulls at some point.

San Antonio, with the league's best record, Oklahoma City and the Clippers are the teams in best position to face the Heat if they reach their third straight finals.

The Lakers were considered a candidate, but that was long ago.

The summer acquisitions of Howard and Nash were supposed to get the Lakers right back to the top. But Nash was hurt early and Howard has never fully recovered from back surgery, adding a torn labrum in his right shoulder to his problems.

He has not fit well in Mike D'Antoni's offense and has acknowledged not always having fun this season. What's more, he has given the Lakers no guarantee he will return when he becomes a free agent in July. But would they really deal a player who was the NBA's dominant big man before his injuries?

"I don't know what they are going to do. But at this point, it doesn't matter," Bryant said. "What matters to us is what we do on Wednesday and go from there. That's the most important thing. That's my message to the team, is that you can't worry about the future, you can't worry about the past. You just have to focus on the present."

Chris Paul will also be a free agent in July, yet the Clippers have far less reason to think he would bolt. They have built a team that's been as good as any when healthy, a deep group led by Paul, the MVP of the All-Star game after finishing with 20 points and 15 assists.

Four games behind the Spurs, the Clippers will have plenty of eyes on them heading in Thursday's 3 p.m. EST deadline to see if they think there's a move out there that would solidify them as a championship contender. Paul believes they already are.

"Whatever we have out there, we're going to fight with. I don't care what it is, either. We're like brothers," Paul said. "I love our team and what we're doing and we're going to keep moving forward."

So, says Bryant, will the Lakers. An NBA Finals duel like the one he had with James down the stretch of the All-Star game seems out of reach this season. Yet the way Bryant defended shows he's ready for the challenge.

"My switch never went off. It was on all weekend," he said. "It was good to see the guys but at the same time there was an undercurrent that went on during the first half of the season that I won't let go. Come Wednesday, we have to be ready to go."

JERRY

From Page 23

was built under his watch. With his failing health, Buss hadn't attended a Lakers game in the past two seasons.

After a rough-and-tumble childhood that included stints as a ditch-digger and a bellhop in the frigid Wyoming winters, Buss earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from USC at age 24, and had careers in aerospace and real estate development before getting into sports. With money from his real-estate ventures and a good bit of creative accounting, Buss bought the then-struggling Lakers, the NHL's Los Angeles Kings and both clubs' arena—the Forum—from Jack Kent Cooke in a \$67.5 million deal that was the largest sports transaction in history at the time.

Last month, Forbes estimated the Lakers were worth \$1 billion, second most in the NBA.

Buss also helped change televised sports by co-founding the Prime Ticket network in 1985, and he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2006 for his work in television. Breaking the contemporary model of subscription services for televised sports, Buss' Prime Ticket put

beloved broadcaster Chick Hearn and the Lakers' home games on basic cable.

Buss also sold the naming rights to the Forum in 1988 to Great Western Savings & Loan—another deal that was ahead of its time.

Born in Salt Lake City, Gerald Hatten Buss was raised in poverty in Wyoming before improving his life through education. He also grew to love basketball, describing himself as an "overly competitive but underly endowed player."

After graduating from the University of Wyoming, Buss attended USC for graduate school because he loved its sports teams. He also became a chemistry professor and worked in the missile division of defense contractor McDonnell Douglas before carving out a path to wealth and sports prominence.

His real-estate portfolio grew out of a \$1,000 investment in a West Los Angeles apartment building with partner Frank Mariani, an aerospace engineer and co-worker.

Heavily leveraging his fortune and various real-estate holdings during two years of negotiations, Buss purchased Cooke's entire Los Angeles sports empire

along with a 13,000-acre ranch in Kern County. Buss immediately worked to transform the Lakers—who had won just one NBA title since moving west from Minneapolis in 1960—into a star-powered endeavor befitting Hollywood.

"One of the first things I tried to do when I bought the team was to make it an identification for this city, like Motown in Detroit," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in 2008. "I try to keep that identification alive. I'm a real Angeleno. I want us to be part of the community."

With showmanship, fearless spending and a little drafting luck, Buss quickly succeeded: Johnson, Abdul-Jabbar and coach Paul Westhead led the Lakers to the 1980 title. Johnson's ball-handling wizardry and Abdul-Jabbar's smooth inside game made for an attractive style of play, and the Lakers came to define West Coast sophistication.

Riley, the former broadcaster who fit the L.A. image perfectly with his slick-backed hair and good looks, was surprisingly promoted by Buss early in the 1981-82 season. He became one of the best coaches in NBA history, leading the Lakers to four straight NBA finals and four ti-

tles, with Worthy, Michael Cooper, Byron Scott and A.C. Green playing major roles.

"I was privileged to be part of that for 10 years and even more grateful for the friendship that has lasted all these many years," Riley said. "I have always come to realize that if it weren't for Dr. Buss, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Overall, the Lakers made the Finals nine times in Buss' first 12 seasons while rekindling the NBA's best rivalry with the Boston Celtics, and Buss basked in the worldwide celebrity he received from his team's achievements. His partying became the stuff of Los Angeles legends, with even his players struggling to keep up with Buss' lifestyle.

Johnson's HIV diagnosis and retirement in 1991 staggered Buss and the Lakers, the owner recalled in 2011. The Lakers went through seven coaches and made just one conference finals appearance in an eight-year stretch of the 1990s despite the 1996 arrivals of O'Neal, who signed with Los Angeles as a free agent, and Bryant, the 17-year-old high schooler acquired in a draft-week trade.

Shaq and Kobe didn't reach their potential until Buss persuaded Jackson, the Chicago

Bulls' six-time NBA champion coach, to take over the Lakers in 1999. Los Angeles immediately won the next three NBA titles in brand-new Staples Center, AEG's state-of-the-art downtown arena built with the Lakers as the primary tenant.

After the Lakers traded O'Neal in 2004, they hovered in mediocrity again until acquiring Gasol in a heist of a trade with Memphis in early 2008. Los Angeles made the next three NBA Finals, winning two more titles.

Through the Lakers' frequent successes and occasional struggles, Buss never stopped living his Hollywood dream. He was an avid poker player and a fixture on the Los Angeles club scene well into his 70s, when a late-night drunk-driving arrest in 2007—with a 23-year-old woman in the passenger seat of his Mercedes-Benz—prompted him to cut down on his partying.

Buss owned the NHL's Kings from 1979-87, and the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks won two league titles under Buss' ownership. He also owned Los Angeles franchises in World Team Tennis and the Major Indoor Soccer League.

Buss' children have pledged to continue his commitment to the

Lakers' distinctive success, although their efforts haven't been rewarded in the past three years while Jerry Buss ceded many decision-making responsibilities to Jim Buss, the Lakers' executive vice president of player personnel and the second-oldest child. While daughter Jeanie runs the franchise's business side, Jim Buss now has the final say on basketball decisions.

Jerry Buss still served two terms as president of the NBA's Board of Governors and was actively involved in the 2011 lockout negotiations, developing blood clots in his legs attributed to his extensive travel during that time.

"I am blessed with a wonderful family who have helped me and guided me every step of the way," Buss said in 2010 at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "This support is the best anybody could ever have."

Buss is survived by his six children: sons Johnny, Jim, Joey and Jesse, and daughters Jeanie Buss and Janie Drexel. He had eight grandchildren.

Arrangements are pending for a funeral and memorial service, likely at Staples Center or a nearby theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

Girlfriend's mom: Why did he do this?

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The family of Oscar Pistorius' slain girlfriend wants answers, her mother told a Johannesburg newspaper, as South Africans braced to hear why prosecutors believe a national hero murdered the model who was shot multiple times.

June Steenkamp, Reeva Steenkamp's mother, told The Times in a front page interview published Monday: "Why? Why my little girl? Why did this happen? Why did he do this?"

"Just like that she is gone," the newspaper quoted her as saying in what it described as an emotional telephone interview. "In the blink of an eye and a single breath, the most beautiful person who ever lived is no longer here."

Pistorius, who remains in custody in a red-brick, one-story police station in Pretoria, is set to return to court Tuesday for the start of his bail hearing. It will be the first opportunity for the prosecution to describe evidence police gathered against the 26-year-old double-amputee runner and the reasons why he was charged with murder. Prosecutors allege the killing was premeditated.

Pistorius' family denies he committed murder though they have not addressed whether he shot her. When word first emerged about the killing there was speculation in the local media that Steenkamp had been mistaken for an intruder in Pistorius' home. Police have said that was not something they were considering.



In this undated handout publicity photo supplied by Stimulii taken on the island of Jamaica, Reeva Steenkamp poses on set during the shooting of the reality show *Tropika Island of Treasure* which premieres on state television Saturday, Feb 16, 2013.

In an email to The Associated Press on Monday, Pistorius' longtime track coach—who was yet to comment—said he believes the killing was an accident.

"I pray that we can all, in time, come through this challenging situation following the accident and I am looking forward to the day I can get my boy back on the track," Ampie Louw wrote in his statement. "I am still in shock following the heart-breaking events that occurred last week and my thoughts and prayers are with both of the families involved."

Pistorius' top sponsor, Nike, said in a brief statement to the AP on Monday that it "has no

plans for Oscar Pistorius in upcoming campaigns." They declined to give any further information.

While Pistorius goes to court, Steenkamp's funeral will also be held Tuesday in her hometown of Port Elizabeth on South Africa's southern coast, her family said. It is to be a private ceremony at a local crematorium, closed to the public and media.

"We're just taking things one day at a time," Reeva Steenkamp's brother Adam Steenkamp said outside the family home. "But at the moment it's family coming together and the one person who would be the strongest, who held us all to-

gether, is unfortunately not here anymore—and that's my sister."

A 29-year-old blonde model, law graduate and reality TV contestant, Reeva Steenkamp died last week of multiple gunshot wounds inside Pistorius' upscale house in a gated community in the eastern suburbs of the capital, Pretoria.

Police said they arrived in the predawn hours of Thursday—Valentine's Day—to find paramedics trying to revive Steenkamp and said that she had been shot four times. A 9 mm pistol was recovered from the scene. Pistorius was arrested and charged with murder the same day.

Prosecutors said in Pistorius'

first court appearance Friday that they would pursue a more serious premeditated murder charge against the Olympian and world's most high-profile disabled athlete.

In a statement initially given only to the AP and two South African reporters over the weekend, Arnold Pistorius, Oscar's uncle, said the prosecution's own case would show there was no murder.

"We have no doubt there is no substance to the allegation," he said, "and that the state's own case, including its own forensic evidence, strongly refutes any possibility of a premeditated murder or indeed any murder at all."

The bail hearing, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, will be the first time both the prosecutors and defense will show their hands about the evidence involved in the killing, said Stephen Tuson, an adjunct law professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

"There will kind of be a little trial within a trial," Tuson said of the start of a court case that will likely grip South Africa and much of the world—possibly for years.

Due to the gravity of the charges, Pistorius' defense lawyers will present their case first, trying to argue that their client is not a danger to the public and won't try to flee to avoid trial, Tuson said. They'll also have to show that he won't try to intimidate witnesses, nor pose a risk of sparking public unrest, the

professor said.

The defense does have the opportunity to put Pistorius—who broke down and wept in his first appearance in court—on the stand to offer testimony on his own behalf. That likely won't happen, as prosecutors would then be allowed to ask him potentially incriminating questions, Tuson said.

Typically, defense lawyers read a prepared statement in court instead.

From there, prosecutors will offer their own version of events, likely bolstered by testimony from the lead investigator in the killing, Tuson said.

Pistorius has been in custody in Brooklyn police station in Pretoria since Friday. His agent told the AP that there is no way to predict if he will ever run track again.

"For me it's too early to comment," Peet Van Zyl said. "I think it's still a huge shock and tragedy that took the world by surprise so I can't comment on that one (Pistorius' future career) or give any timeline to that at this point in time."

Coach Louw, who is significant for convincing Pistorius to take up track a decade ago and starting him on his journey to worldwide fame, said he had been around Pistorius and Steenkamp, and she often accompanied the athlete to training.

"I found her to be delightful, very friendly ... and I found the two of them to be very happy in each other's company," Louw said.

Goodell paid more than \$29M by NFL in 2011



NEW YORK (AP)—Nice job, Roger Goodell. Here's your pay: \$29.49 million.

NFL owners nearly tripled the commissioner's compensation in the 2011 tax year and likely made Goodell the best paid commissioner in U.S. sports.

According to the league's most recent tax return, much of Goodell's pay comes in the form of a \$22.3 million bonus. His base pay was \$3.1 million. The NFL was scheduled to file the return Friday.

While the league declined comment on specifics, it must, by law, make the return available upon request.

In 2011, the NFL went through a long lockout prior to the season. Goodell helped work out the new 10-year labor deal that ended the labor strife. That was followed by lucrative new TV contracts with CBS, ESPN, FOX and NBC.

For the year beginning April 1, 2011, and ending March 31, 2012, Goodell was paid \$29,490,000, which included \$3,117,000 in base pay, \$22,309,000 in bonus and incentive compensation, and most of the rest in "other reported compensation," the tax

return said.

Goodell earned a total of \$11.6 million in 2010.

"The NFL is the most successful and best-managed sports league in the world," said Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, who is chairman of the league's compensation committee, in a statement. "This is in no small part due to Roger's leadership and the value he brings to the table in every facet of the sport and business of the league. His compensation reflects that."

By comparison, Saints quarterback Drew Brees is the league's highest paid player with a five-year deal averaging \$20 million.

Goodell's compensation was first reported by Sports-Business Daily.

The next-highest paid NFL official in 2011 was general counsel Jeff Pash. He earned \$8.829 million, including \$5.93 million in bonus compensation. Pash was the chief labor negotiator during the collective bargaining agreement talks.

Former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue received \$8.58 million, all but \$1 million in retirement and deferred compensation.

It is believed Major-League Baseball Commissioner Bud

Selig and NBA Commissioner David Stern earn somewhere in the mid-\$20 million range, but

neither league's tax returns are public. Both leagues are set up as for-profits.

"Unlike most CEO's of major companies, who are compensated with stock options, the NFL does

not provide that," said Marc Ganis, the president of SportsCorp, which does consulting work with the NFL. "So a performance-based bonus is another way of compensation."

Packers release defensive back Charles Woodson

Charles Woodson is on the market.

The Green Bay Packers released the 36-year-old defensive back Friday with two years left on his contract.

"We are grateful for all that Charles has given to the Green Bay Packers over the past seven years," general manager Ted Thompson said. "He has been an integral part of the Packers' success and our Super Bowl title in 2010 would not have been possible without his contributions. A once-in-a-generation talent as a player, he is also a great leader and ambassador for the organization off the field."

The Packers clear about \$10 million in cap space by releasing Woodson. Carl Poston, Woodson's agent, said the veteran wasn't done yet.

"The Packers told Charles they're going in a different direction," Poston said. "Charles told me he still wants to play—for a Super Bowl contender."

Woodson signed a five-year deal before the 2010 season that was worth as much as \$55 million. He missed nine games during the 2012 regular season because of a broken right collarbone and played in two postseason games for the Packers in his seventh year with the franchise.

"We had a good run," Woodson wrote to ESPNWisconsin.com in a text message.

Woodson was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2009 and the Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1998. He spent the first eight years of his career with the Oakland Raiders, who drafted him out of Michigan with the No. 4 overall pick.

He's the only player in NFL history with touchdowns off interceptions in six straight seasons, a feat he pulled off each year from 2006 to 2011, and leads the league with nine touchdowns off interceptions since 2006. He went to the Pro

Bowl every year from 2008-11.

Woodson was productive for the Packers, but they have some tough decisions to make this offseason to manage the salary cap. Woodson had a year left on his lucrative deal and linebacker A.J. Hawk is under contract next year for a team that probably wants to give long-term deals to receiver James Jones, linebacker Clay Matthews and defensive tackle B.J. Raji because each of the relatively young standouts could potentially be free agents following next season.

Despite his age and recent injury, Woodson will likely be an in-demand free agent. He was injured last October, bounced back in time to defend two passes in the playoffs.

"Charles has been a stud in this league for 15 years, so whenever he's on the field with us, he's always a huge threat," Hawk said in January. "Not only is he a threat to make huge

plays throughout the game, but quarterbacks, I think they know where he's at every single play. He seems to know what receivers are running before they do. And I think he has an intimidation factor as well."

Woodson had a career-high nine interceptions in 2009 and picked off seven passes in 2011 and made one interception in seven games during last year's injury-shortened season.

The 1997 Heisman Trophy winner led Michigan to the 1997 national championship and has donated more than \$2 million to the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital, where he supports pediatric clinical research. With the Packers, he was a leader as one of the best players on the team and as a mentor to younger players.

"He's like a big brother to all of us," former Green Bay safety Nick Collins once said. **(AP)**

New sponsor, new club in NMBA opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private sponsor and youth club will have their debuts this Saturday, as Northern Marianas Badminton Association holds its first tournament of the season at the TSL Sports Complex.

Sun Palace Hotel will sponsor NMBA's season-opener dubbed as the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013.

"We are happy to help NMBA in promoting badminton and

active lifestyle though involvement in sports competitions. Sun Palace started supporting sports groups and team late last year, as we also sponsored a basketball team," Sun Palace Hotel co-owner Shirley Kim said.

Sun Palace Hotel, located in Oleai near the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield at the Oleai Sports Complex, is one of the oldest hotels on Saipan.

"It was built in 1983. That time Saipan had no small hotel, so we thought that it would be good to put up one. We started

for fourth place via handicap tiebreaker rule.

CWGA's March Ace event and April's opening round represent the last chances for players still vying for a berth into the two-round, season-ending finale tournament scheduled for this coming April.

Established in 2007, the CWGA is a non-profit organization founded to promote, encourage and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, in addition to a bid into the two-day Ace of Aces Championship, while 14 points goes to second and so on down through the Top 10 place finishers; the remaining participants each reach one point. Its season traditionally starts in May and ends in April.

For more information, contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Dolores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

Jeon wins CWGA February Ace



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in CWGA's February Ace of the Month golf tournament pose for a group photo at the entrance of Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course last Feb. 9.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Jeon Me Ae grossed an impressive field low gross round of 77 that held true against a field of 19 who turned out for the CNMI Women's Golf Association's February Ace of the Month tournament held last Feb. 9 at the Laolao

Bay Golf Resort's west course.

She penciled in a 41 on the front nine and stormed through the backside with an even 36 to clip eventual third place finisher Sun Suk Kim by a stroke to earn low-gross honors.

Jeon ended up with a net score of 71 that was equaled by runner-up Sherlyn Jones, though the former won via handicap tiebreaker rule.

Jones logged 42 on the first nine holes and finished up with a 40 for a raw tally of 82. She is also already a previous ace winner from earlier in the season.

Kim led Jeon at the turn with a 39, but fell just short despite steadying another solid 39 on the back nine for a stroke round of 78 that factored into a 73 net total.

Dolores Yamagishi (46-45) tied Kim's net score, but settled

CHOI

From Page 28

the closely fought second set to stay alive.

"After we lost the first set, we thought we needed to do something. We started talking to each other more and approaching the net often. Our service games and volleys helped us the most. I felt like we were more patient in the second set and put shots away when it

was needed," said Choi, who played with an injured left shoulder patched with tapes.

With the finalists splitting the first two sets, the game went into super tiebreak and the marathon continued with neither team seemed willing to give in before Jones' impressive service game made the difference in the end, according to Choi.

"In the super tiebreak, Emily played really well. Her serves and volleys were amazing. We saved a lot of match points. In

the first and second set we had trouble returning, but somehow in the tiebreak we both started hitting the balls well. With Emily's serves we were able to win crucial points and ended up winning the match on her serve," said Choi.

"It was one of the best and exciting games I ever played. It was awesome," he added.

Choi and Jones, who were seeded second in the tournament, advanced to the finals after notching two wins over the

weekend in the lower half of the 32-tea, draw. They swept Raj Rai and Tony Atalig in the quarterfinals last Saturday, 6-0, 6-3, and then eliminated Kinumi Taniguchi and Michael Ren in the semis last Sunday, 6-3, 6-3.

In the upper half of the bracket, the top-seeded pair of Sakano and Heras won over Gary Ramsey and Steven Goodwin, 6-2, 6-3, in the quarterfinals and then ousted Daniel Park and Vincent Tudela in the semis, 6-3, 6-4.

5pm and 6pm matchups.

MISO's double-elimination postseason tournament is scheduled to start this Friday at the MHS Gym starting at 2pm and conclude on Saturday.

Notably, Tinian and Rota high schools will be both appearing in this year's playoffs; more details are forthcoming.

mapan, Marvin Kaipat, Iguel, and Saralu.

Winning pitcher Vince Cepeda gave up five runs, three earned, off six hits, and three walks with 10 strikeouts through 6 2/3 innings. He struck out six of the first nine batters he faced out of the gate.

Saralu batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, a base-on-balls, and a hit-by-pitch. Sablan went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run. Angels' Reyes swung 2-for-3 with two runs and two stolen bases.

LADY

From Page 28

on Feb. 5 with the former also picking up an additional victory over SSHS, 25-9, 25-11.

Last Tuesday, MCS defeated MHS Yellow, 25-18, 25-15; while SIS White bested KHS

(25-20, 25-13) and MBA (25-16, 27-25).

MBA picked up a pair of wins over SSHS (25-15, 25-23) and MHS Yellow (25-6, 25-21) back on Thursday, and SIS Green overcame MCS, 25-23, 25-20.

The season concludes after the end of today's make-up

matches at the MHS Gym starting at 3:45pm. The games are starting a little earlier due to MHS hosting its sister-school from Japan, Seisa Gakuen.

Following the opening pairings the crowd will pause to honor the Japanese guests and partake in a brief opening ceremony before resuming with the

BREWERS

From Page 28

again the D-9ers (0-1).

It was the Angels' first game.

After being stood up at third base in the opening frame, the Brewers tacked up nine runs in the bottom of the second inning off five hits and some untimely errors. Manny Sablan, Diego Camacho, and McGary Scaliem all bashed RBI singles.

Brewers' Nokki Saralu then made it 10-0 in the third inning

by drawing a two-out walk and scoring off an error in the infield.

The Angels tried to ignite a rally in the top of the fourth inning and managed to move around three runs off four hits, which resulted in RBI base rips for Nunu Kapileo, Nick Cruz, and Gary Cruz.

The Angels then held the Brewers in the bottom side and mustered another run in the top of the fifth inning from John Reyes who reached on a base knock and later stole home, but

the Brewers obliged with two runs in the bottom frame off a triple by Saralu that scored John Iguel followed up with an RBI base poke by Sablan.

With the Brewers possessing a commanding 12-4 lead after six innings, the Angels squeezed out its last run in the top of the seventh with a double by Ben Flores and a wild pitch, but the Brewers immediately countered with the knockout blow in the bottom exchange with four consecutive leadoff hits by Dave De-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jen Savellano in action during one of Northern Marianas Badminton Association's tournaments last year. NMBA will open 2013 this weekend with the staging of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013.

with 11 rooms and then after two years, we added seven more. In 1992, we built a two-storey building with 20 rooms. My husband used the word sun in naming the hotel, saying its symbolizes a bright future," Kim added.

The inaugural Sun Palace Hotel tournament will feature over 60 players from NMBA's five regular clubs and newcomer Community Badminton Club. CBC will compete against players from Shirley's Badminton Club, TAGA Badminton Club, Berks Blazers, Saipan Badminton Club, and the Golden Racquet.

"We would like to welcome the Community Badminton Club to the NMBA family. This is a youth club headed by Andreau Galvez and aims to encourage more youth to get involved not only in sports, but also in community service," tournament director Macoi Aguda said.

The association's season-opening event will have a round-robin format in the elimination and winners will received medals and cash prizes.

Aguda sees competitive and challenging games in the Sun Palace tournament, as several players have shown significant improvements last year and have moved up to a higher classification, and they will be joined by promising newcomers.

had one and nailed 9 markers in the third, while Norita added 6.

Ahead by only two baskets, Gualo Rai launched a 9-2 run in the first two and a half minutes of the fourth quarter to bring its lead back to double digits, 55-44. Chinatown then tried to mount another comeback, but pushed its luck too much from beyond the arc, drilling only two triples and missing at least five.

Besides its low 3-point shooting percentage in the fourth, Chinatown also committed several passing errors and muffed layups in the last two minutes, hurting the team's chances of returning to the win column. Chinatown was scoreless in the last two minutes of the match, while Gualo Rai made 3 points off Marlo Ibanez's buzzer-beating trey.

Factor top-scored for Gualo Rai with his 18, while Galulu and Ibanez contributed 15 and 14, respectively. Norita paced Chinatown with his 15 markers.

Meanwhile, the second game between ICS Shooters and LD Prime was rained-out with the former slightly ahead, 10-8, 3:01 left in the first quarter.

Gualo Rai 66 – Factor 18, Galulu 15, Ibanez 14, Cayading 8, Espinosa 7, Fidelino 2, Deleon Guerrero 1.

Chinatown 53 – Norita 15, Zapanta 13, Quizon 13, J. Pua 7, Alokoa 2, E. Pua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 31-19, 46-42, 66-53.

GUALO RAI

From Page 28

3-3 card.

Chinatown tried avoiding a losing skid when it threatened a comeback in the third quarter after trailing by as much as 12 points in the first half. However, a strong start in the fourth period put order back to Gualo Rai's offense and it kept its safe distance against Chinatown in the end.

Chinatown played catch up from the start, as Gualo Rai erected a 23-11 advantage in the opening quarter. Joseph Galulu got hot early, as he almost outgunned the entire Chinatown crew, scoring 10 of his 15 markers in the first period. Prince Factor chipped in 6.

While Galulu's guns were blazing at the get-go and Factor supporting him, Chinatown struggled offensively with only Paul Quizon and Jerome Norita making more than one field goal apiece for their team. Chinatown was still off in the second period, but fortunately for the team, Gualo Rai slowed down, and the former faced a manageable deficit at the break, 19-31.

Gualo Rai's lead was then sliced to 4 points, 42-46, when Chinatown made the move in the third period. Three-point shooting brought Chinatown back in the game, as it connected on three triples. Quizon converted two treys, Zapanta

3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Blue Haus' Brett Sutton goes baseline against Lion's Club/Northern Marianas College Proa's Ivan Devero during their 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup championship game last Feb. 6 at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Blue Haus' Elmer Esdreton lets an open jumper fly against Lion's Club/Northern Marianas College.



From third left, Blue Haus' Leo Galarse knocks the ball out of the hands of Proa's Trevor Ogumoro as the latter tries to split the zone defense.



Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios, left, battles Proa's Ivan Devero in the paint.



Proa's Jack Lizama takes an open shot from the right elbow.



Blue Haus' Jomar Tumaquip, fourth right, dives for a loose ball.



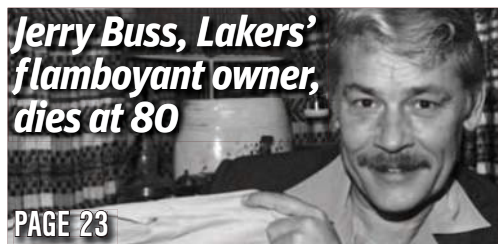
Proa's Lerio Pagarao, top, avoids Blue Haus defender Brett Sutton with a nifty acrobatic layup in transition.



Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios, third left, battles with Proa's Gino Libuw, fourth left, for a loose ball that pinballed off the rim.



Lion's Club/Northern Marianas College's runner-up Proa squad pose for a team photo after conclusion of the championship series.



PAGE 23

Saipan Tribune Sports



PAGE 24

28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Choi, Jones survive epic finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior players Tommy Choi and Emily Jones outclassed Ama-mi Sakano and Isabel Heras in a classic finale mixed-up doubles event of the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday.

The title match was the last game in the annual competition and it proved to be the best and the toughest, too, as Choi and Jones eked out a 4-6, 7-6 (11-9), 17-15 victory after almost three hours of play at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

"It was a longest match I ever played and I am glad we won," Jones posted in her Facebook account, which was flooded with congratulatory messages not only for the winning pair, but also to the runners-up for putting up a gallant stand.

Heras and Sakano raced to an early 2-5 lead in the opening set and had to withstand Jones and Choi's rally to pull off a 6-4 victory and move a set away from wrapping up the finals.

However, no sweep happened, as Choi and Jones made the necessary adjustments in

See **CHOI** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Emily Jones hits a volley, while teammate Tommy Choi looks on during the warm-up in their semis match against Kinumi Taniguchi and Michael Ren in the mixed-up doubles event of the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.

Lady Eagles rebound with 4 straight wins after loss

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Top-ranked Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles recovered nicely from its recent loss, stringing together four straight wins over the past two weeks as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's 2013 girls volleyball season continued at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

GCA holds a stout 13-1 win-loss record ahead of MHS Blue Lady Dolphins (12-3) who took three out of four matches heading into today's final round of competition.

The Lady Eagles defeated MHS Yellow Lady Dolphins (3-10), 25-12, 15-9, back on Feb. 5 and then bested Saipan International School White Lady



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Saipan International School Green Lady Geckos' Adele Hudkins, left, tries to lift a return past Mount Carmel School Lady Knights defender Carey Demapan during their MISO high school girls volleyball league match Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Geckos (9-6), 25-4, 28-26, last Tuesday before topping Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus (2-13), 25-17, 25-12; and Mount Carmel School Lady Knights (5-7), 25-21, 25-17, last Thursday.

MHS Blue fell to Marianas Baptist Academy Lady Stormz (8-7) on Feb. 5, 25-16, 25-22, but rebounded against third-ranked SIS Green Lady Geckos (10-3) later that same day, 16-25, 25-19, and, 15-13.

They then defeated KHS in two sets, 25-17, 25-19; and Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays (0-12), 25-16, 25-7 on Tuesday and up-ended SIS White on Thursday, 25-22, 25-14.

In other results, SIS White (25-9,25-9) and MCS (25-22,25-13) both defeated KHS

See **LADY** on **Page 26**

Brewers ground Angels, 15-5

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Tan Holdings Brewers routed St. Michael's Medical Response Angels, 15-5, after seven innings in Monday's Saipan Major League Baseball Association matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win evened the Brewers' card to a win and a loss and they hope to build on it as the season rolls on tonight at the Tan Ko Field at 6:30pm with the Brew Crew squaring off

See **BREWERS** on **Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Tan Holdings Brewers shortstop Nokki Saralu tries to tag out St. Michael's Angels' John Reyes but to no avail during their Saipan Major League matchup Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Gualo Rai gains third victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Gualo Rai handed Chinatown back-to-back losses after posting a 66-53 victory in the lone Division B game completed in the DLX/Anchor

Strong Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win improved Gualo Rai's record to 3-2. Chinatown, which streaked to three straight wins after dropping its debut before absorbing its second defeat at the hands of Adobo, fell to a

See **GUALO RAI** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gualo Rai's Marlo Ibanez drives to the baseline against Chinatown's Johnston Alokoa during the fourth quarter of their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.